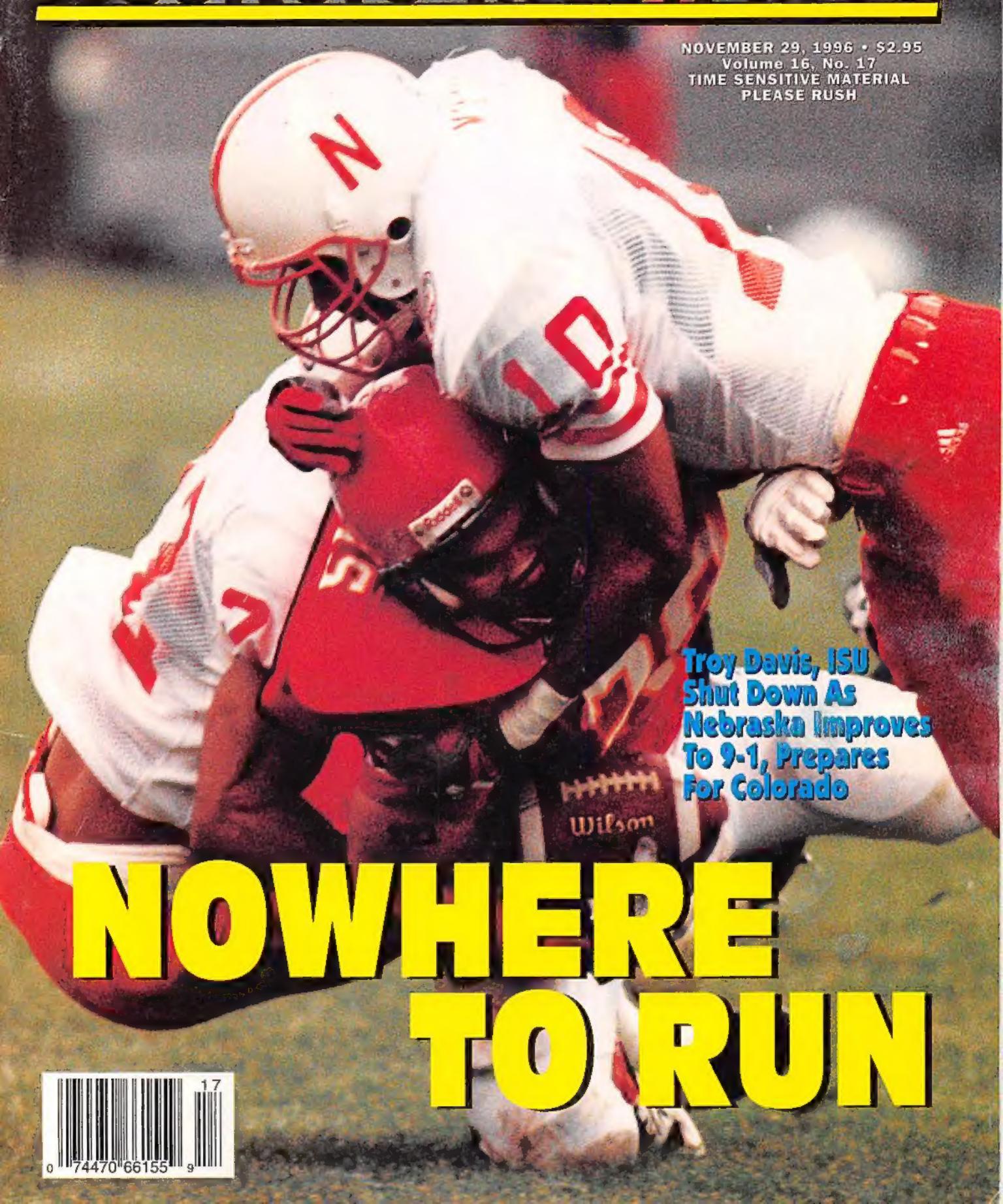


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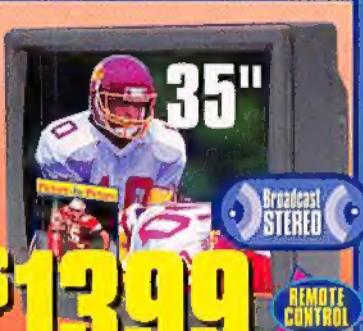
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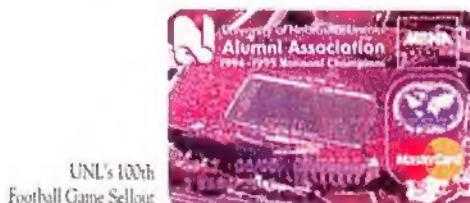
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By Al Eschbach

**58 Best Of The Best:
The Numbers Game
(Jerseys 91-99)**

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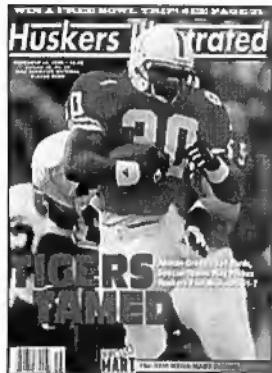
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NEXT ISSUE

If Nebraska makes the Big 12 Championship Game, we will mail an issue following the Colorado game on December 1. Should the Huskers miss out, your next issue will be mailed December 15 and will preview the bowl game.

LETTERS



Your preview of the Missouri game, especially the articles by Johnny Rodgers and Adrian Fiala, accurately portrayed the feverish intensity and frequent bitter nature of the Husker/Tiger rivalry when I was in school at Nebraska (1964-68) and for many years afterwards.

I recall the build-up before the 1971 game being correctly articulated by Lyell Bremser. As the Huskers were concluding their non-conference schedule with a 4-0 record, he warned listeners that the tough part of the season was just beginning since the team next week

"will be with the evil people in Columbia, Missouri."

True, the rivalry today is nothing like what it used to be, but with still vivid memories of those tough Missouri games in the 1960s, 1970s and early 80s, beating them 18 years in a row is most enjoyable.

Harry Argue
hlargue@mailbag.com

Adrian Fiala's article on Iowa State "Battling Cyclones And Mother Nature (Nov. 16)" hit home with me. I've sat in Ames on plenty of occasions and it can get downright miserable in November.

I don't know why it is. Maybe Mother Nature just isn't a Cyclone fan. If she is, she better bring a couple of extra blankets. Or at least some warm coffee like Adrian gave to coach Bob Devaney. What was really in that thermos anyway?

Carmy Thompson
Omaha, Neb.

Please send your comments and questions to Letters, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. Or fax them to us at (972) 851-1720. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length.

For those with electronic mail abilities, hukersedit@xcscx.com.

From The EDITOR

There were a lot of things to do and see during the four years that my family was stationed in England (Lakenheath AFB to be exact). And believe me, the Griswolds couldn't hold a candle to the amount of sightseeing, food tasting and culture experiences that my parents "exposed" us to. If we weren't making brass rubbings or taking in a play at Stratford-upon-Avon, we were outside of Buckingham Palace trying to make the royal guards smile.

But the one thing I could never bring myself to do was attend a soccer game.

While this may not sound like a big deal to Americans, it's blasphemy to the English. Just try telling someone in Wisconsin that you're not interested in the Packers and check out the looks and finger salutes you get. It wasn't like the talent level was poor. From what I remember Manchester United and Ipswich were the equivalent of the 49ers and Cowboys. Sometimes it was even as violent. Of course that action takes place in the stands.

I've just never been able to see the excitement in the game.

Until now.

I, like many people, got caught up in the Nebraska soccer team this year. That's not to say that I've seen the light after 28 years and replaced all my Nike workout clothes with fancy silk numbers sporting Umbro logos. I still don't care for the sport itself.

But you can't help being impressed with what John Walker's squad was able to do in only its third year of existence. The Huskers playing with only one senior (Kim Ratliff) marched unblemished through 21 games including a Big 12 Tournament title with a 1-0 overtime victory against Texas A&M.

Goalkeeper Becky Hornbacher, who hadn't played a minute for the Huskers prior to the season, earned All-Big 12 honors after recording 13 shutouts and had a 0.45 goals against average. Six other Husker players, including Kari Uppinghouse, also made the list.

The Huskers, which outscored opponents 86 to 12, were as dominating a soccer team as there was in the country based on record.

Although some will say the Huskers' schedule was somewhat soft, the bottom line is they never lost a game. Even powerhouse programs in other sports slip up once in a while against the cream puffs. Walker's squad never did, something none of the other teams in the 32-squad NCAA National Championship tournament field can say.

And that's impressive enough for even non-soccer aficionados to take notice and respect.

Chris Greer, Editor

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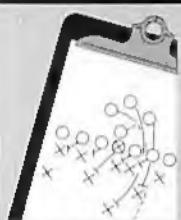
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**STATISTICS
VS.
IOWA STATE**

NOVEMBER 16, 1996

Jack Trice Field • Ames, Iowa
Attendance: 47,850



SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	20	8	14	7	49
IOWA STATE	0	0	7	7	14

TEAM STATS

	ISU	NU
First Downs	17	30
Rushing	6	23
Passing	7	6
Penalty	4	1
Rushing Attempts	38	69
Yards Gained Rushing	171	392
Yards Lost Rushing	33	4
Net yards rushing	138	388
Net yards passing	100	103
Passes attempted	21	17
Passes completed	9	8
Had intercepted	2	0
Total plays	59	86
Total net yards	238	491
Avg. gain per play	4.0	5.0
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	9-99	5-63
Punts-yards	5-224	1-31
Avg. per punt	44.8	31.0
Possession time	26:43	33:17

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Peter	1	8	9	0	0	0
Warfield	1	5	6	0	0	0
McFarlin	0	5	5	0	0	0
Minter	0	5	5	0	0	0
Foreman	0	5	5	0	0	0
Stokes	0	4	4	0	0	0
Farley	2	2	4	1	0	0
Hesse	1	3	4	1	0	0
Toline	1	3	4	0	0	0
Brown, R.	2	1	3	0	0	1
Williams, J.	2	1	3	0	0	1
Brown, M.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Johnson	0	3	3	0	0	0
Rucker	0	2	2	0	0	0
Terwilliger	1	1	2	0	0	0
Wiltz	0	2	2	0	0	0
Wistrom	0	2	2	0	0	0
Tomich	0	1	1	0	0	0
Ogard	1	0	1	0	0	0
Fullman	1	0	1	0	0	0

IOWA STATE

IOWA STATE	Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Brown	4	12	16	0	0	0
Williams	7	8	15	0	0	0
Achebe	3	8	11	0	0	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING

NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Green	29	214	7.4	25	1
Frost	7	28	4.0	12	2
Evans	12	54	3.9	11	0
Benning	11	45	4.1	7	1
Shuster	3	17	5.6	6	0
Turman	2	12	6.0	11	1
Cristo	1	11	11.0	11	0
Makovicka	2	6	3.0	4	0
Sims	1	0	0.0	0	0

IOWA STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Davis	34	138	4.1	35	0
Doxzon	4	0	0.0	23	0

PASSING

NEBRASKA

Player	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD
Frost	8-17-0	103	2

IOWA STATE

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Doxzon	7-16-1	95	1
Bandhauer	2-4-0	5	1
Williams	1-0-1	0	0

FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Made	Distance
None Attempted			

IOWA STATE

Player	Att	Made	Distance
None Attempted			

RECEIVING

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA	Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Jackson, V.	3	57	19.0	35	2	
Holbein	3	33	11.0	15	0	
Evans	1	11	11.0	11	0	
Cheatham	1	2	2.0	2	0	

IOWA STATE

IOWA STATE	Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Williams	4	41	10.3	22	2	
Green	2	23	11.5	13	0	
Watley	2	35	17.5	23	0	
Davis, E.	1	1	1.0	1	0	

PUNT RETURNS

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Benning	2	8	4.0	12	0	

IOWA STATE

IOWA STATE	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Shaw	1	0	0.0	0	0	

1996 SEASON STATS

(10 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	9	152	908	100.8	7
Evans, D.	9	91	523	58.1	10
Benning, D.	9	83	454	50.4	7
Frost, S.	10	76	359	35.9	9
Sims, J.	8	36	256	32.0	3
Turman, M.	9	21	122	13.5	3
Shuster, B.	9	29	116	12.8	1
Makovicka, J.	8	20	113	14.1	0
Perino, J.	5	5	51	12.8	0
Cobb, J.	6	12	42	7.0	1
Christo, M.	4	3	35	8.8	0
Eicher, C.	2	2	18	9.0	0
Kingston, B.	2	2	25	25.0	0
Olnes, J.	2	3	8	4.0	0
Legate, B.	4	3	8	4.0	0
Wiggins, S.	6	2	7	3.0	0
London, F.	3	3	6	2.0	0
Cheatam, K.	6	1	16	2.6	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	10	83-162-3	51.3	1,229	13
Turman, M.	9	9-19-0	47.4	126	1
Perino, J.	4	0-2-0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Vedral, J.	9	16	259	16.7	26.0	1
Holbein, B.	10	18	269	14.9	26.9	4
Jackson, V.	9	12	212	17.8	23.5	4
Green, A.	9	9	93	10.3	10.3	0
Cheatam, K.	6	6	94	15.6	15.6	0
Evans, D.	9	5	24	4.8	2.6	0
Lake, J.	5	4	101	25.3	20.2	1
Brown, L.	5	4	91	22.8	18.2	1
Jackson, S.	5	4	48	12.0	8.0	2
Shuster, B.	8	3	74	24.6	9.3	0
Makovicka, J.	7	3	28	3.0	0.4	0
Wiggins, S.	8	2	30	15.0	3.8	0
Wills, A.	3	1	19	19.0	6.3	0
Edwards, J. R.	4	1	9	9.0	3.0	0
Legate, B.	4	1	9	9.0	3.0	0
Wieting, S.	3	1	6	6.0	2.0	0
Benning, D.	8	1	1	1.0	-0.1	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	10	15	9	50

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	10	28	48	76	2	4
Hesse, J.	10	26	45	71	0	3
Wistrom, G.	10	22	33	55	1	7.5
Peter, J.	10	14	36	50	0	4
Farley, T.	8	15	28	43	0	2
Foreman, J.	10	10	32	42	1	0.5
Minter, M.	10	10	28	38		

Down, But Not Out

With his turf toe injury healing, Ahman Green has shown Missouri, Iowa State why he'll be among the early Heisman candidates next year

By MIKE BABCOCK

When Ahman Green talks, you have to listen carefully. Nebraska's sophomore I-back is so soft-spoken, he often seems to be talking in a whisper, which is how it was after he rushed for a career-high 214 yards in the Cornhuskers' 49-14 victory against Iowa State last Saturday.

Green also is not one to brag on himself, something he had ample opportunity to do during a post-game news conference. More than once, he was asked to compare himself to the Cyclones' tailback extraordinaire Troy Davis. And more than once, he adroitly sidestepped the question.

"It wasn't me against Troy," he said. "I was just thinking about winning the game."

One reporter persisted, but to no avail. "I'm not a big guy to talk about myself," Green said.

Others, however, offered opinions. Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride put Green in the same category as Davis and Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard, who went over 2,000 rushing yards for the season on Saturday. "He's got power, speed . . . that kid is strong," McBride said of Green.

"Hey, I'm not taking anything away from any of those guys . . . But?"

Cornhusker quarterback Scott Frost, whose option pitches to Green seemed to be timed better than they've ever been, said Green was "twice as aggressive" on Saturday. He's been slowed by injuries this season, and "having any kind of injury doesn't just slow you down. It works on you mentally."

With a rain-soaked field, Green was forced to find many of his yards inside. More than once, he took the handoff from Frost, and disappeared in a mass of red-jerseyed Cyclones, only to emerge an instant later 5 yards up the field. "I thought Ahman played pretty well. He ran

hard," said Nebraska coach Tom Osborne. "The last two weeks, he's been playing like he had been. He's coming around."

Green opened with a 15-carry, 71-yard performance against Michigan State. He followed with 87 yards on 20 carries against Arizona State, then ran for 163 yards on 22 carries against Colorado State.

Three games into the season, he had 321 yards rushing. Then, he suffered a turf toe injury, after carrying 14 times for 66 yards (and his third touchdown of the season) against Kansas State.

He missed the Baylor game because of the injury, then returned to carry 19 times for 76 yards at Texas Tech. He got only 12 carries against Kansas, for 65 yards and a touchdown, before what, statistically at least, was the low point of his col-

Green said he earned his scholarship against ISU, carrying the ball 29 times.

lege career: 5 yards net on nine carries at Oklahoma.

Green might have been down because of the injury. But he wasn't out. With the toe healing, he fashioned 161 yards on only 12 carries in the Missouri game and showed the breakaway ability that had been a trademark during his freshman season, in which he rushed for 1,086 yards.

He had runs of 56 yards, for a touchdown, and 70 yards against the Tigers.

In the two weeks to which Osborne referred, Green had a combined 375 yards, to bring his season total to 908 yards. If he continues to run as he has, he could give Nebraska a 1,000-yard rusher for the 17th time 20 seasons. The only seasons during that time in which the Cornhuskers haven't had a 1,000-yard rusher were 1990 (Leodis Flowers 940), 1986 (Keith Jones 830) and 1978 (Isaiah Hipp 936).



Green will have at least one and possibly two games to reach 1,000. If Nebraska advances to the Big 12 playoff game in St. Louis on Dec. 7, those statistics would count in his regular-season total.

Green carried 29 times against Iowa State. "I think that was the most carries I've ever had (at any level of competition)," he said. "I earned my scholarship today. I didn't think I could do it."

His previous high at Nebraska was 22 carries against Colorado State.

Green got by with a little help from his friends . . . or a lot of help, if he is to be believed. He credited the blocking of the offensive line and fullbacks Brian Schuster and Joel Makovicka for his success against the Cyclones. "It was fun," Green said. "I had a lot of guys behind me."

And, if you want to be more literal about it, in front of him.

Osborne said the wet natural grass surface posed something of a problem for Nebraska's option offense. But Green didn't consider the unsure footing a serious hindrance.

Because of the wet turf, "you had to run flat-footed," he said.

"I didn't slip a lot. God blessed me with flat feet."

His impaired vision was more of a problem than the wet grass, said Green, who wore a patch over the stitches above his left eye — the result of a minor automobile accident on icy Interstate 80 the previous week. Because of the patch, the left eye was "about halfway open."

Green didn't exactly look like the Oakland Raider because of the patch. But he must have looked pretty intimidating to Iowa State's beleaguered defense, which allowed Nebraska 388 yards rushing.

If Green continues his strong finish, he could position himself as a Heisman Trophy candidate for next season. Such awards, after all, usually require a running start. But Green dismissed such talk.

"That's not up to me," he said. "That's up to the voters. I'm just doing it for my team."

The rest of the Cornhuskers certainly have confidence in him. Before Saturday's game, "a lot of my teammates tried to pep me up," Green said. "They told me: You're the best back in the Big 12."

Based on his performance against the Cyclones, that wasn't without justification. ■

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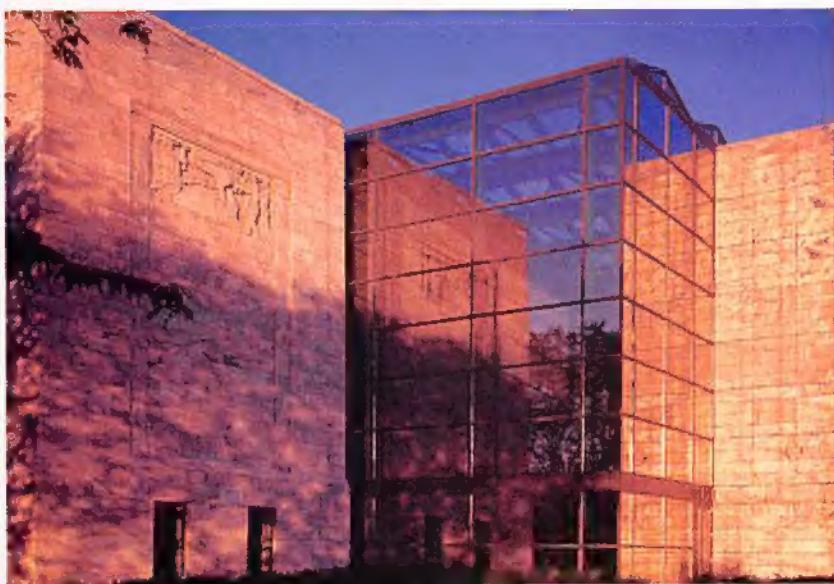
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Black Shirts Keep Davis From Reaching 2,000 Yards

T

he numbers on the "TD YARD-O-METER," attached to the upper deck facade of the east stands at ISU Stadium/Jack Trice Field, advanced slowly last Saturday.

The homemade, hand-operated "TD YARD-O-METER" was next to a banner that said: "Troy For Heisman." Troy, of course, is Iowa State tailback Troy Davis, the "TD" whose season's rushing yardage was kept for all to see on the "yard-o-meter." At day's end, it read 1,960, an increase of 138.

Davis would have liked 40 more rushing yards, for an even 2,000. Prior to the game, the junior from

Miami, Fla., told *The Des Moines Register*: "Nebraska is one of the top teams that everyone wants to beat. If we don't beat them and I get my 178 yards, that's a victory for me and the team. It would mean a lot to the Iowa State coaches, to the staff and to the fans watching me out there doing it."

The Cyclones didn't beat Nebraska. They lost 49-14. And Davis didn't get 178 rushing yards, though there was no disgrace in what he got. "Davis is a great back,"

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said. "The thing I admire is his durability and his courage. He's taken a pounding. He's a tough guy."

Davis was confronted by a Nebraska defense ranked sixth in the nation against the run, allowing an average of 74 yards per game. He needed 34 carries, including 14 in the fourth quarter, to reach 138. With at least 40 yards rushing in Iowa State's final game at Kansas State, he would become the first player in NCAA-Division I-A history to rush for 2,000 or more yards in consecutive seasons.

Davis would be the first to rush for 2,000 yards twice, consecutive or not. With Saturday's total, he passed USC's Marcus Allen for the most rushing yards in consecutive seasons: 3,970.

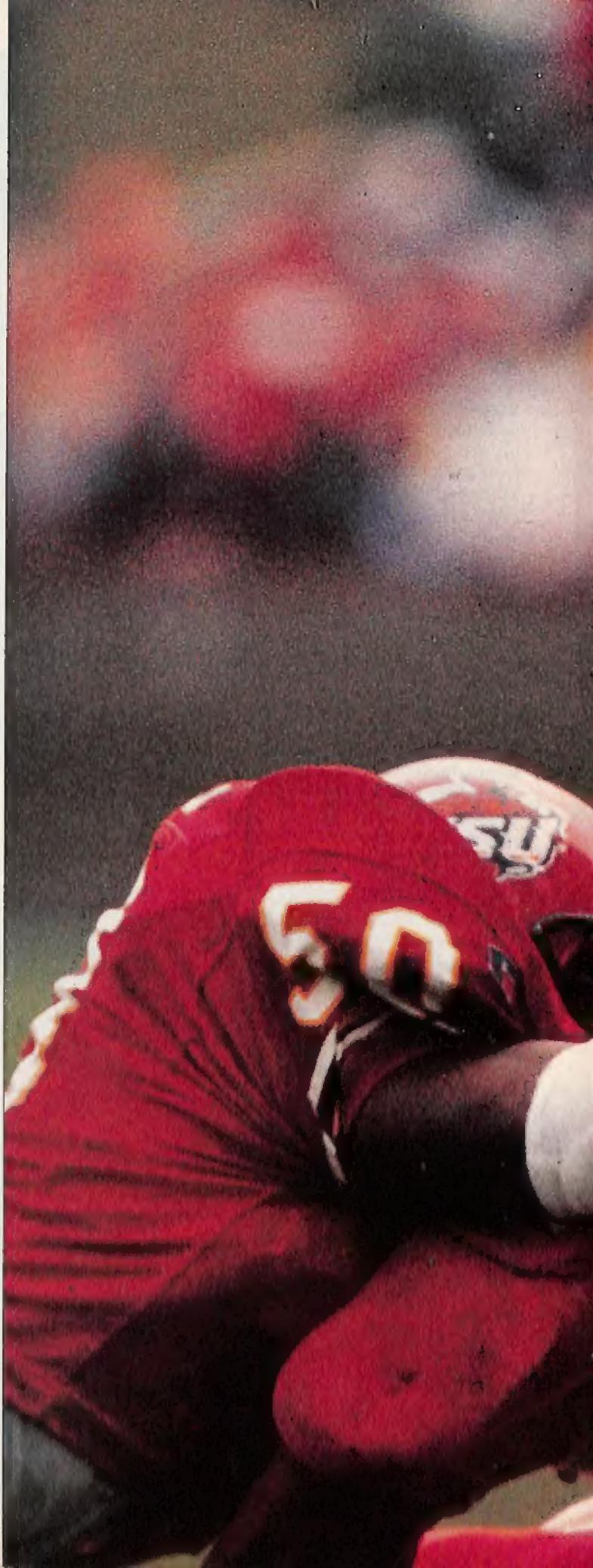
Davis's pursuit of a place in ball-carrying history was little more than a subplot to fifth-ranked Nebraska's ninth victory of the season, though. In fact, he was only the second-most productive running back in the game. Cornhusker sophomore Ahman Green looked more like a Heisman Trophy candidate, run-

Rushing for a career-high 217 yards, Ahman Green, not Davis, looked like the Heisman candidate.

By MIKE BABCOCK

GAME RECAP

Iowa State Game photos by Jon Waller

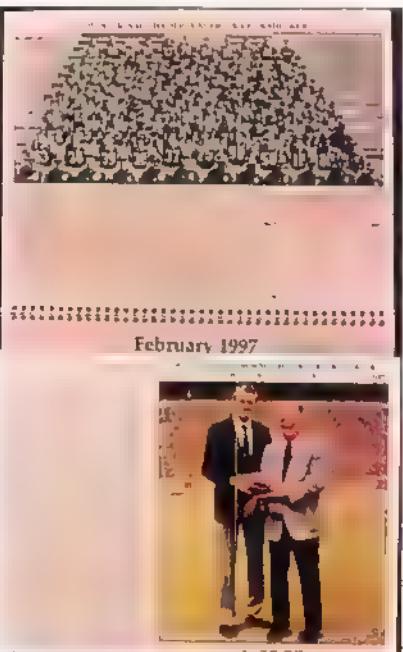






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ning for a career-high 217 yards and one touchdown on 29 carries.

However, as the earlier comment from Davis underscores, it became such a significant subplot that the Cornhusker defense had no choice but to respond to, and then address, the challenge.

Nebraska's concern was winning, without too much regard for how that was accomplished. As for dealing with Davis, "we didn't have any set goal," Osborne said. "One thing we did talk about was not letting him make a big play ... a guy carries the ball that many times, something's going to happen."

Davis had 83 yards on 20 carries after three quarters, about the time the Cornhuskers' back-up defenders took over for good. "We were happy with what we did," said Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter, who was credited with nine tackles. "It was a big game for us no matter what."

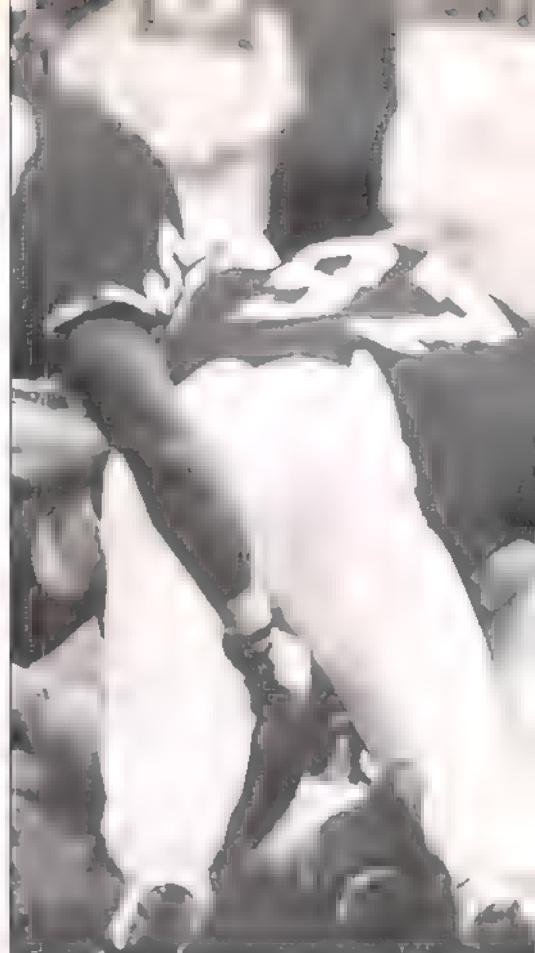
It was a big game in that the Cornhuskers couldn't afford to look ahead to a Nov. 29 game against Colorado for the Big 12 North Division title and a place in the Dec. 7 conference playoff. "A lot of people wanted us to think about Colorado," Peter said. "But we stayed focused on Iowa State."

That was apparent from the beginning. Nebraska scored on its first three possessions, all in the first quarter, to take a 20-0 lead and eliminate any thoughts the Cyclones might have had about repeating their upset of Nebraska in 1992. Two full pages in the "Tradition" section of the Iowa State media guide were devoted to an account of that game. The Cyclones' four bowl games each got one page.

From the second quarter on, it was little more than a game in search of a final score ... and (bear with me on this) an answer to the question of whether Davis would rush for 178 yards and reach 2,000 against the Black Shirts. "We just wanted to limit him," said Cornhusker middle linebacker Jon Hesse, whose recovery of a Davis fumble at the Iowa State 39-yard line set up the first touchdown.

"We didn't want him to gash us too much. We wanted to make him earn everything he got."

Nebraska did, coming at Davis in waves, like the bursts of rain, driven by a strong south wind, that made the game something of an adventure and left an audience of 47,850 soaked to the bone. The Ames area



With the passing game hampered by the wet conditions, Scott Frost and Nebraska were content to pile up yards and scores on the ground.

received about an inch of rain during a 24-hour period that included the game.

"The thing I didn't want to do was play a game where the elements took you out of what you can do (on offense)," Osborne said, adding that inclement weather can be "a great equalizer. Option football is a lot harder. It's a different ballgame on grass, particularly wet grass. It's slower. I like artificial turf."

The Cornhuskers' passing game was hampered, as the game went on, by the wet conditions, according to Osborne. "The ball was so wet, it was like throwing a shot put," he said.

The situation was aggravated by the fact that Nebraska turned in just six footballs to the officials before the game. Those six were the only ones the Cornhuskers could use. "I didn't realize we hadn't turned in more than we had," said Osborne. "So we were playing with pretty heavy footballs."

Quarterback Scott Frost completed 8-of-17 passes for 103 yards and two touchdowns. By the second half,



the footballs "had a layer of mud on them. That made it (passing) really tough," Frost said.

By then, it was too late for Iowa State, however Nebraska's first two touchdowns came on passes from Frost to tight end Vershan Jackson. Frost and Jackson would have teamed up for a third, but the wet ball slipped from Frost's hand, and Jackson, who was alone in the corner of the south end zone, slipped and fell as the ball sailed over him, untouched. "Any other day, that would be a touchdown," said Frost.

"I'm just grateful for the ones I did catch," Jackson said. They were good for 6 and 35 yards.

The touchdown passes were set up by the running of Green, who carried on the Cornhuskers' first six plays from scrimmage, and 11 times for 77 yards during the first quarter, to set a hectic pace that Davis couldn't quite match. And Iowa State's defense, which ranked 106th (out of 111) in Division I-A against the run and 110th overall, couldn't handle Green, who had nine runs of 10 or more yards.

Green's touchdown came on a 4-yard run early in the third quarter, to finish a 12-play, 80-yard drive. The Cornhuskers also had 80-yard touchdown drives of 11 and 17 plays, both capped by Frost.

Nebraska's defense didn't score any points, which was a bit unusual. But it did produce three turnovers, including Hesse's fumble recovery and interceptions by Jamel Williams and Ralph Brown.

Despite liberal substitutions in the second half, the Cornhusker defense limited Iowa State to 238 yards. "They definitely could move the ball on offense," defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "To hold those guys to 14 points is good. I do think they have one of the better offenses we've faced."

Davis was a big reason, but so was quarterback Todd Doxzon, according to McBride, who described the senior from Omaha as "a better scrambler than the kid (Jake Plummer) from Arizona State."

Doxzon, who was sacked by Farley and Hesse for 26 yards in losses, threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Ed Williams with 8:21 remaining in the third quarter to get the Cyclones on the scoreboard.

"All we wanted was to score against Nebraska," said an enthusiastic Iowa State fan who braved the elements to the bitter end in hopes of seeing Davis break a long run to reach 178 rushing yards.

That didn't happen. "There was nothing real remarkable about the game," said Osborne.

Afterward, Frost and Doxzon spoke briefly before heading to their respective locker rooms. The two were teammates in the Nebraska Shrine Bowl All-Star Game in the summer following their senior years in high school, Frost at Wood River and Doxzon at Millard North. "I know Todd relatively well," Frost said. "I wished him luck against Kansas State, and he wished us luck (against Colorado)."

It's better to be good than lucky, however. And right now, Nebraska is looking good.

"I think we're playing well," said Osborne. "I didn't like the Arizona State game, on either side of the ball, and I didn't like the Texas Tech game, offensively. Otherwise, I like our chances."

So does Iowa State freshman Darren Davis, Troy's younger brother. If Nebraska plays the way it did in the wind and rain last Saturday afternoon, it will win, he told a Lincoln newspaper reporter.

The Cornhuskers have a week off now to get ready for Colorado's visit.

"We have a lot of people with minor injuries. We need this break," Jackson said.

Osborne agreed. "I'm glad to get out of here with a win, reasonably healthy," he said. ■



By Mark Derowitsch

Too bad Bill McCartney won't be on the sideline when Colorado takes on Nebraska. After all, it was always McCartney's wish to see the Cornhuskers treat the contest like a full-fledged rivalry.

McCartney, who took over the Colorado program in 1982 and led the Buffaloes to a national championship in 1990, set his sights on Nebraska from the first day he began to turn CU around.

While the Huskers played a number of important games against

Colorado, the Buffaloes still couldn't replace Oklahoma as Nebraska's main rival.

Enter the Big 12.

With the formation of the league (which combined the old Big Eight with Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor of the old Southwest Conference), Nebraska doesn't play the Sooners every year anymore. And the makers of the league schedule moved the Nebraska-Colorado contest to Thanksgiving weekend, the time usually set aside for the Huskers' annual meeting with Oklahoma.

Unfortunately, the new conference was formed two years too late.

McCartney suddenly retired as Colorado's head coach. Now, second-year coach Rick Neuheisel will get to see McCartney's dream come true on Nov. 29, when the two teams battle at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln beginning at 1:30 p.m. (CST).

While Nebraska coach Tom Osborne has not gotten a case of Buffalo fever yet, he said he realizes the importance of the contest. "We know Colorado-Kansas State is going to be a big game," Osborne said. "We feel Nebraska-Colorado will be a very, very big game."

In his first year at Colorado, Neuheisel downplayed the rivalry with Nebraska, which was a good thing, considering the Huskers trounced the Buffaloes, 44-21, in Boulder,

Colorado Sports Information



Colorado head coach Rick Neuheisel has downplayed the importance of this game.

PRESS PICKS

• **Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated**

Whatever one might think about Colorado, it has outstanding athletes, which, in itself, is reason for concern. The Buffaloes have shown a tendency to self-destruct, however. That tendency will be aggravated by Nebraska's aggressive defense, which could be a source of considerable consternation to Colorado quarterback Koy Detmer. The Buffaloes' only hope probably would somehow be to get ahead early and make Nebraska play from behind — and even that might not work.

**Nebraska 31,
Colorado 17.**

• **Todd Henrichs, Grand Island (Neb.) Independent**

In recent years, Colorado has looked great against everyone BUT Nebraska. Cornhusker fans should be worried this year because the Buffs haven't overpowered other foes. Are they saving up for the Huskers?

**Nebraska 28,
Colorado 21.**

• **Kyle Svec, Hastings Tribune**

This is the game everybody has been waiting for ... or so it seems. Colorado's defense will slow the Huskers' offense. But expect the Black Shirts to again be the highlight.

**Nebraska 28,
Colorado 10.**

• **Scott Franzke, Prime Sports**

Same story here. Big 12 North is really the old Big Eight. Nebraska beats everyone. Colorado beats everyone until they play Nebraska.

**Nebraska 35,
Colorado 21.**



Colorado Sports Information

Colorado quarterback Koy Detmer has experienced success in the Buffaloes' three wide receiver offense.

Colo. Neuheisel hasn't said much about the game this season, either.

One thing is certain: the Buffaloes enter the contest with much more firepower than they had last season. In part, that's because of quarterback Koy Detmer.

Detmer, who sat out most of last season because of a knee injury, is putting up Heisman-like numbers as a senior. He has completed 196-of-325 passes (60.3 percent) for 2,928 yards and 22 touchdowns through ten games. As a starter, Detmer is 13-

2-1 in his first 16 games, but one is a 52-7 loss to Nebraska as a freshman in 1992.

But Detmer has improved since then, and his numbers prove it. He is second on the CU all-time list for passing yards (5,162), first in touchdown passes (40) and third in total offense (5,133 yards). Detmer credits his success to working with Neuheisel, who was the Colorado quarterbacks coach before he took over the program for McCartney.

Detmer isn't the only reason why Colorado has such a tough passing attack. The Buffaloes may have the best group of receivers in the country.

Wide receiver Rae Carruth is the Buffaloes' top threat. In his ten games, Carruth made 52 receptions for 1,069 yards and eight touchdowns.

Receivers Phil Savoy and Chris Anderson also start in Colorado's three-receiver attack. Savoy has 42 receptions for 617 yards and three touchdowns, and Anderson has two scores.

James Kidd, who underwent arthroscopic knee surgery on Oct. 27, likely will return in time to play Nebraska. He has 19 receptions for 276 yards and two touchdowns.

Colorado's tight ends also get into the act. Tennyson McCarty and Brody Heffner, who have filled in for the injured Matt Lepis, have combined for 26 catches and two scores.

"I've been pleased with the tight ends all season, especially the patchwork job they've had to do," Neuheisel said.

Colorado's line has given up 15 sacks this season, but its play is getting better.

Adam Reed starts at center, Andrew Welsh and Melvin Thomas at tackle Kyle Smith and Chris Naeole at guard.

"It improved a great deal," Neuheisel said of CU's pass protection.

The Buffaloes' running game is led by Herchell Troutman and Lendon Henry, who have split time at tailback this year.

When Colorado goes to a two-back set, Darren Fisk lines up at fullback.

The only way Colorado can slow Nebraska's offense is by keeping the Huskers' ground game in check. That shouldn't be a problem, considering Colorado is giving up an average of 126.1 yards per game on the ground.

Up front, defensive end Greg Jones is CU's top player. Jones has 70 tackles and six sacks.

The Buffaloes have a strong corps of linebackers, led by senior Matt Russell. Russell had 18 tackles against Missouri.

Free safety Steve Rosga is the player in the Colorado defense that teams try to stay away from. He has 110 tackles, third on the team.

Colorado's starting cornerbacks — Dalton Simmons and Marcus Washington — are quick and talented. Ryan Black starts at strong safety. ■

NEBRASKA VS. COLORADO TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9 190 Sr
*8	Kenny Cheatham	6-4 210 So	
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6 300 Sr
LG	73	Fred Pollack	6-4 305 Jr
LG	76	Chris Dishman	6-3 310 Sr
C	63	James Sherman	6-2 300 Fr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1 305 Jr
RG	58	Josh Heskew	6-3 280 Jr
RG	64	Jon Zalechka	6-2 290 Jr
RT	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1 280 Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4 300 Jr
TE	78	Kory Mikos	6-5 295 Sr
TE	'90	Tim Carpenter	6-3 250 Jr
or	34	Vernon Jackson	6-0 234 Jr
QB	'7	Scott Frost	6-3 215 Jr
FB	11	Matt Tuman	5-11 185 Sr
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11 225 Sr
FB	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11 230 So
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0 210 So
IB	21	Damon Banning	5-11 210 Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11 205 Sr
WB	14	Lance Brown	5-11 190 So
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10 200 So

BUFFALO DEFENSE

DE	59	Greg Jones	6-4 245 Sr
DE	13	Fred Jones	6-3 245 Fr
DT	55	Ryan Olson	6-2 275 Jr
DT	94	Sean Jane	6-6 275 Fr
DT	77	Villiam Maumau	6-2 300 Jr
DE	80	Aaron Marshall	6-4 265 So
DE	57	Nick Ziegler	6-5 240 So
WLB	48	Terrail Cade	6-4 235 So
WLB	91	Mike Phillips	6-4 210 Jr
MLB	16	Matt Russell	6-2 245 Sr
SLB	23	Allen Wilson	6-0 230 Sr
SLB	33	Ren Morkerson	6-3 260 Jr
LC	37	Brandon Southward	6-4 230 So
LC	4	Marcus Washington	6-2 210 So
SS	6	Ryan Black	5-10 190 Jr
FS	40	Rashidi Barnes	6-0 185 Fr
FS	15	Steve Rosga	6-1 210 Sr
RC	36	Ryan Suter	6-2 195 Jr
RC	7	Dalton Simmons	6-0 190 Sr
P	2	Damon Wheeler	5-10 185 Fr
P	28	Andy Mitchell	6-3 190 Jr

BUFFALO OFFENSE

WR	80	Phil Savoy	6-3 195 Jr
WR	18	Chris Anderson	6-4 220 Jr
LT	74	Andrew Welsh	6-6 265 Jr
LG	52	Kyle Smith	6-6 290 Sr
C	53	Adam Reed	6-2 290 So
RG	81	Kris Soden	6-4 285 Sr
RG	65	Chris Naeole	6-4 310 Sr
RT	75	Aaron Wade	6-7 290 Jr
RT	78	Meivin Thomas	6-3 305 Jr
TE	78	Matt Jones	6-5 305 Sr
TE	41	Tennyson McCarty	6-2 245 Jr
TE	66	Brandon Southward	6-4 230 So
QB	14	Koy Detmer	6-1 185 Sr
QB	4	Toray Elton Davis	5-9 185 Jr
TB	5	Herchell Troutman	5-7 190 Jr
TB	39	Lendon Henry	6-0 210 Jr
WR	2	James Kidd	5-8 160 Sr
WR	18	Chris Anderson	6-4 220 Jr
WR	21	Rae Carruth	5-11 190 Sr
PK	6	Darwin Chiaverini	6-2 195 So
PK	12	Jason Lesley	5-8 185 Jr
P	28	Andy Mitchell	6-3 190 Jr

HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2 260 Sr
DT	92	Travis Tolino	6-3 235 So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-2 300 Sr
DT	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3 295 So
DT	55	Jason Peter	6-4 285 Jr
RRE	74	Scott Saitzman	6-2 270 Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5 250 Jr
SLB	84	Mike Rucker	6-6 250 So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2 205 Sr
SLB	46	Brian Shaw	6-0 215 Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4 250 Sr
MLB	56	Jay Foreman	6-1 225 So
WLB	43	Terrell Farley	6-1 205 Sr
WLB	81	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5 225 Sr
LC	'20	Michael Booker	6-2 205 Sr
LC	'12	Mike Fullman	5-7 170 Sr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11 185 Sr
FS	3	Eric Warfield	6-1 195 Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10 180 Sr
ROV	4	Oclavious McFarlin	5-11 195 Jr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11 180 Fr
RC	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7 185 Fr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0 185 Jr

Depth charts were compiled Nov. 17, 1996 and may change before game time

■ = duplicate number

* = injured, but probable for game

KEY MATCHUPS

Nebraska vs. Colorado



Ahman GREEN

This game may never go down in Big 12 lore as the Game of the Century, or even Game of the Year. Settle for the game of the week. In the end, Nebraska's experience should win out and defeat the hungry Buffaloes. Playing the game in Lincoln sure helps, too.

Advantage: Nebraska

Nebraska's running game vs. Colorado's defensive front

Yes, Nebraska doesn't have a Heisman Trophy candidate at 1-back this year. And yes, because of injuries it's been a position by committee this year. But that doesn't mean the Huskers can't line it up and run right at Colorado this season.

The trio of Ahman Green, DeAngelo Evans and Damon Benning are all capable backs who can break off a long run without warning. Green has been the starter much of the season, Benning is the most experienced runner in the group and Evans is probably the most explosive. When the Huskers run the option, Scott Frost is like an extra running back. With the quarterback leading the way, the Huskers have the fourth best ground game in the nation and are averaging 291.3 yards per game.

Colorado isn't too bad at stopping the run, though. The Buffaloes are giving up just 126.1 yards per game, 14th best in the country and third best in the conference, behind Nebraska and Texas A&M.

This could be where the game is decided.

Advantage: Nebraska



Greg JONES



Scott FROST

Nebraska's passing game vs. Colorado's secondary/pass rush

The Huskers don't have to throw the ball often against Colorado to be successful, but they do have to do it well. The last two seasons, Colorado did a decent job of limiting the Huskers on the ground, but Brook Berringer in 1994 and Tommie Frazier in 1995 both enjoyed good days passing to lead Nebraska to a pair of wins.

Can Scott Frost do the job? Most likely. Frost has come into his own as the Huskers' quarterback, but he won't be mistaken for Frazier this year. Still, Frost through 10 games has completed 51 percent of his passes (83-of-162) for 1,229 yards and 13 touchdowns. With his arm, Frost can keep the CU defense honest enough to open up some holes up front.

Frost was victimized by dropped passes earlier this season. But Nebraska's receiving crew of split end Brendan Holbein, wingback Jon Vedral and tight ends Tim Carpenter, Vershan Jackson and Sheldon Jackson have been improving.

Colorado has given up 201.4 yards passing per game. Buffalo free safety Steve Rosga leads the team with four interceptions — one of which he returned for a touchdown.

Advantage: Huskers



Steve ROSGA



Grant WISTROM

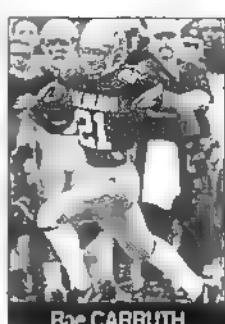
Nebraska's secondary/pass rush vs. Colorado's passing game

The passing game is the strength of the Buffaloes, thanks mainly to quarterback Koy Detmer. In his first 10 games this fall, Detmer threw for 2,928 yards, 22 touchdowns and completed 59.7 percent of his passes. Detmer has talented receivers to work with, too. Wide receivers Rae Carruth has 52 catches for 1,069 yards in 10 games this fall to lead all CU receivers. Phil Savoy recorded 41 catches, while Chris Anderson and James Kidd each contributed 19.

But the Buffaloes do have some weaknesses. Detmer has been picked off 10 times this season and has been sacked another 14 times.

The Husker defense likes to rush the passer, and defensive ends Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom could have a field day against the CU offensive line. The Husker secondary has been solid all year, giving up 1,252 yards and only four passing touchdowns in nine games. Safety Mike Minter leads all Huskers with four interceptions. Look for Detmer to go after Nebraska true freshman cornerback Ralph Brown II, who is playing like a veteran already.

Slight Advantage: Colorado



Rae CARRUTH



Jason PETER

Nebraska's defensive front vs. Colorado's running game

If Colorado is to pull off an upset and come away with a victory against the two-time defending national champions it will have to run the ball. It won't be easy.

Herchell Troutman and Lendon Henry are the Buffaloes' main rushing threats. Troutman leads the team with 738 yards on the ground in 106 attempts, while Henry has added another 534 yards on 115 carries. Henry leads the team with six rushing touchdowns.

As a team, Colorado is averaging 157.4 yards rushing per game.

Now the bad news for the Buffaloes. The Huskers are allowing only 77.5 yards on the ground per game, fifth best in the nation behind West Virginia, Army, Southern Mississippi and Florida State. The Huskers' Jason Peter and Jeff Ogard at tackle, ends Tomich and Wistrom and a slew of talented linebackers have proven to be a tough barrier for would-be ball carriers to break this season.

Advantage: Nebraska



Chris NAEOLE



Kris BROWN

Nebraska's special teams vs. Colorado's special teams

The Huskers have a top-notch kicker in Kris Brown and a solid punter in Jesse Kosch. Brown has made 9-of-15 field-goal attempts, hit 47 point-after attempts and leads the team in scoring with 74 points. Kosch is ranked 11th nationally with his 45.2-yard per-punt average.

Colorado has struggled with its kicking game. Place-kicker Jason Lesley is just 6-for-12 on field goal attempts, and is battling Jeremy Aldrich to keep his starting job. Punter Nick Pietsch and Andy Mitchell have combined to average only 39 yards per attempt.

The Huskers have two of the top 24 punt returners in the nation in Shevin Wiggins and Mike Fullman. Wiggins is averaging 13.5 yards per punt return and has taken one in for a touchdown, while Fullman averages 12.1 yards per return.

Advantage: Nebraska



Jason LESLEY

Tom Osborne vs. Rick Neuheisel

No contest. The coach of the two-time defending national champions or the Big 12 Boy Wunder, who went 10-2 in his first year at Colorado.

Advantage: Nebraska



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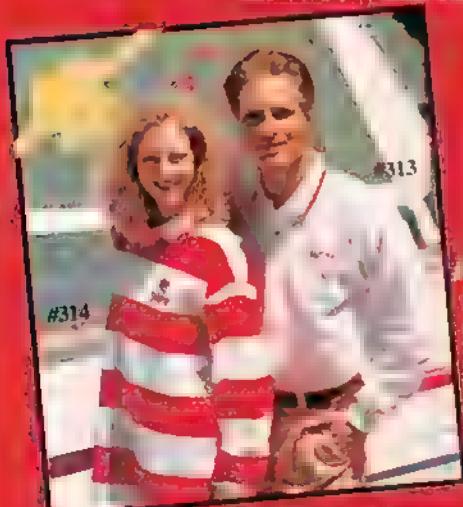
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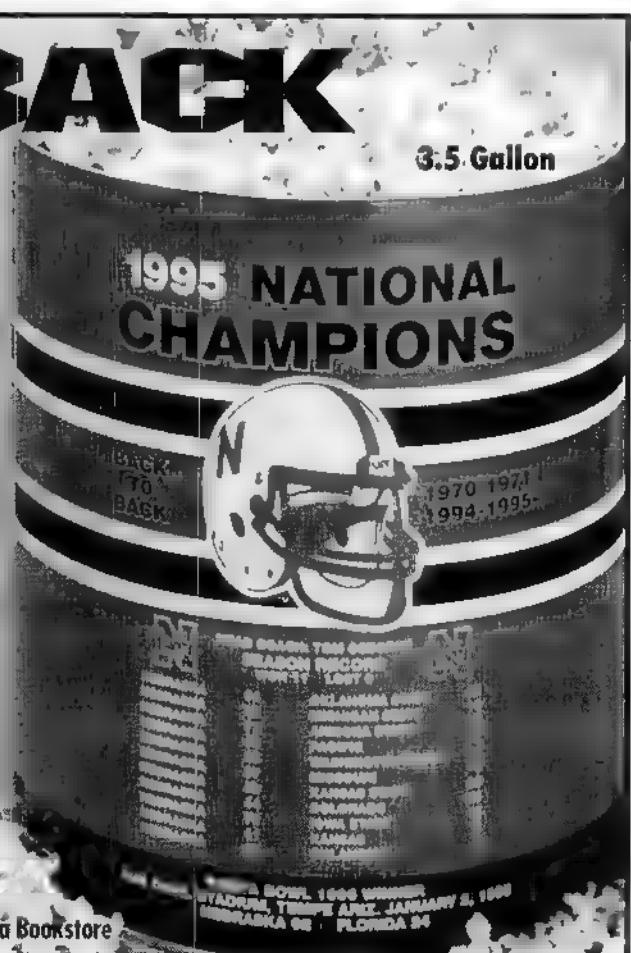
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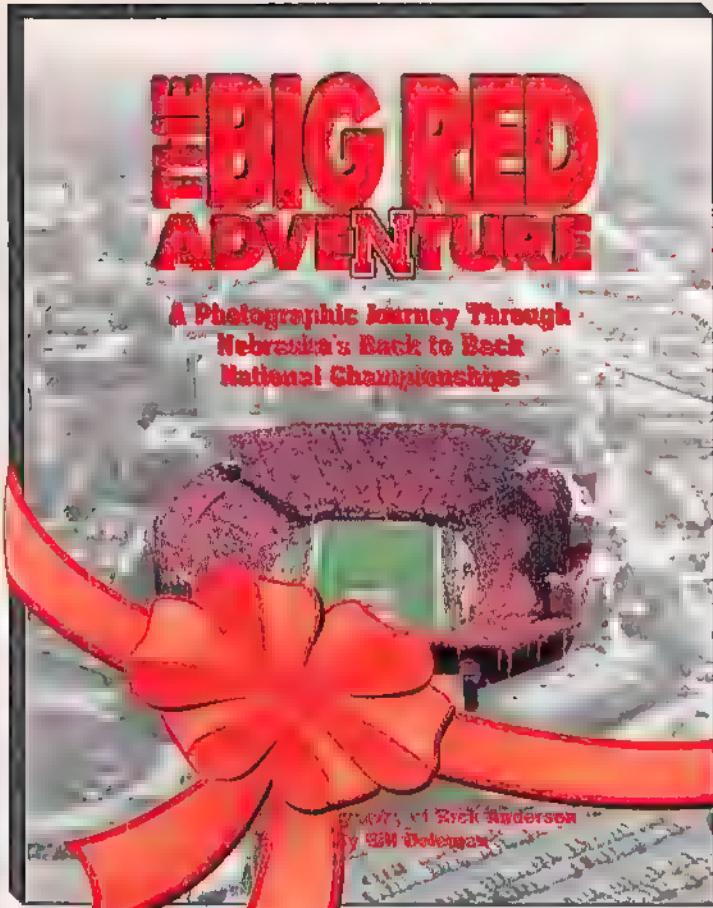
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THE JET'S RETROSPECT

Rebuffed

Colorado, a traditionally tough rival, was no obstacle for the Husker teams of the early '70s

For as long as I could remember, Colorado had great football teams.

Then as now, the Buffaloes always came to play, and if you were to look past them, as we sometimes have over the years, they could steal your thunder in a heartbeat.

My first Nebraska-Colorado game was in 1970. The Buffaloes had a solid nucleus returning from a fine 1969 team, making them a top challenger for the Big Eight title. Colorado looked sound in all areas, as Coach Eddie Crowder's team came close to upsetting us. If it hadn't been for the Guy Ingles and Van Brownson show, the Buffaloes probably would have beaten us.

Early in the first quarter, we started with two great catches by Ingles for touchdowns. Guy, who wasn't any bigger than I was at the time, was a split end. He could catch bullets with either hand.

He was an acrobat with nerves of steel, and even though he was only 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds, he made catches that only he could make, even in a crowd.

Van Brownson, a quarterback, was an exceptional passer and an even better runner. He ran for one touchdown and passed to Ingles for two touchdowns that day in October.

Jeff Kinney put the final nail in the Buffaloes' coffin, scoring a touchdown late in the fourth quarter to wrap up what looked like a convincing win. The final score was 29-13.

In the 1970s, the Big Eight was by far the toughest football conference in the country. In 1971, the conference had a great season all across the board. Everyone around the country was talking about the Big Eight.

We won our second national title and we were followed in the final Associated Press rankings by Oklahoma, at No. 2, and Colorado, at No. 3.

By
**JOHNNY
RODGERS**



To get to Oklahoma to play the "Game of the Century," we had to get past Colorado. Much like this season, in order to get to No. 1-ranked Florida (assuming it can get past Florida State), we have to get past Colorado. Well, we got past Colorado in 1971, and we will now.

In front of a national television audience of millions, in pouring rain, we beat the Buffaloes, 31-7. It was our 18th consecutive victory and improved our Big Eight record to 4-0. The Black Shirts were so tough that Colorado managed just 108 yards rushing, 52 yards passing and one broken-play touchdown.

John "Spider" Adkins recovered a fumble to set up a touchdown for Jeff Kinney. And Dave Mason intercepted a pass to set up a 65-yard touchdown drive, with quarterback Jerry Tagge passing to Maury Damkroger, a tough fullback, for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

After Colorado scored, Tagge took us on a 70-yard drive and then just took it into the end zone himself from 1-yard out. Rich Sanger kicked a field goal, and we were up 24-7 at the half.

One of my biggest moments came in the third quarter, when I caused my biggest punt-return rival, Cliff Branch, to fumble a punt to set up our last touchdown.

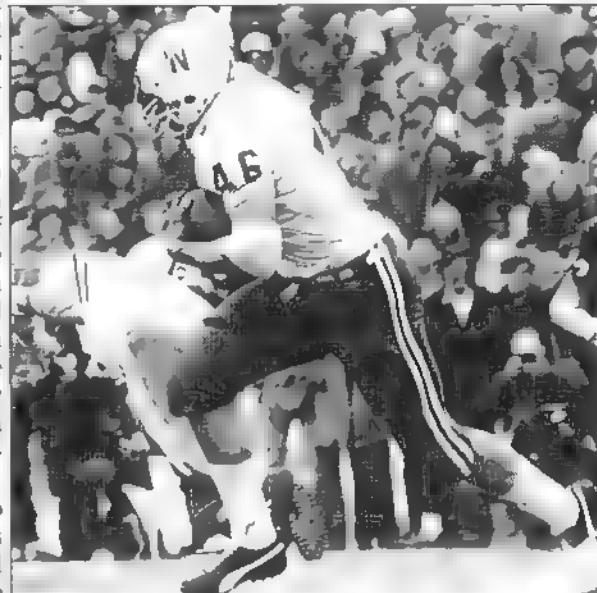
I didn't score a touchdown that day, but I ran circles around Branch and made him fumble on national television in his senior year.

That was a big deal to me because I admired him and believed him to be the man for me to defeat for national honors.

In November of 1972, we were on

national television again, and we were hot ... not because we were still winning, but hot because we had already lost to UCLA and as the season went on, we seemed to be struggling. Trying to put it together, we took it out on Colorado, which had been upset already by Oklahoma State. We romped against the Buffaloes, winning 33-10. We had to hold the score down, in fact, because we didn't want to show any more offense than we had to.

No matter how easy it seemed in the 1970s, 1980s or even in the 1990s, Colorado has always been the team to beat. And this year is no different.



Fullback Maury Damkroger was a key cog in the Huskers' victory over Colorado in 1971.

We will defeat the Buffaloes again this year, though, not because they're not a good team but because we're just better.

Some teams play as well as they can, but Nebraska plays as well as it wants to, especially at the end of the season.

We look for Colorado to be the rival that Oklahoma once represented. It's going to be a good game, as usual, but it's down to coaching now. And I believe that Dr. Tom is not going to let anyone turn us around. ■

A Game Of Eagles, Buffs And Huskers

Although it is "such a fine sight to see," no one will ever be takin' it easy" when Colorado and Nebraska square off

slow rumble from the west is now barely discernible. But come Friday Nov. 29 the ground in

Memorial Stadium will be shaking. The Golden Buffalo herd from

Colorado will stampede into Lincoln to begin the annual season-ending stomp with the Huskers. Ralphie won't be making the trip, however, because years ago, Bob Devaney punched his (or her) ticket. Sorry Ralphie boy, or girl.

There's nowhere to graze here, anyway, unless you like chewing plastic grass.

Remember two years ago when the Buffs came to Lincoln at the end of October? They were undefeated, 7-0, and ranked second in the nation by the *Associated Press*, a team characterized by that guru of football logic and lore Lee Corso as the best college football team ever, with Kordell Stewart and eventual Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam. We watched as the Brook Berringer-led Husker offense and the Black Shirt defense dismantled every facet of Corso's "greatest team ever" and then took a nap on a Buffalo cape afterward. To borrow from the lyrics of the Eagles' "Take It Easy," "It was such a fine sight to see." Especially when they hauled out the Buffs on a "flatbed Ford," so to speak.

The Huskers won, 24-7, but could have easily won 38-0, missing two touchdowns on a dropped pass and a stumble by one of the Husker backs in the clear, which

would've been a sure score. The only miscue of the day came when Brook threw an interception and Colorado ran the short field for a touchdown.

That game is one of many images I conjure up when I think about, talk about or hear about Colorado. As I wrote several weeks ago, Colorado has always been one of my favorite places.

As a kid, my family would make yearly summer treks to the Rockies for a week of outdoor adventure. It so affected my brother Doug that he moved his family to Colorado in the early 1960s and has been there since.



By
**ADRIAN
FIALA**

We've had some great times out there: fishing, four-wheeling, camping and skiing. It's a great place to be, except that I couldn't see myself as a Colorado football player.

Eddie Crowder was the head coach at Colorado and he recruited me, along with an assistant coach whose name I have forgotten. Husker teammate Dick Davis and I made our recruiting trip there together. Dick played at Omaha (North) High School and had a great career there and at Nebraska.

We both came away from our trip to Boulder sure that we wouldn't be going to Colorado. Crowder made a fundamental recruiting mistake when he came to Omaha to see me. He came to our house and spent the early evening with my parents and me. Then he suggested that he and I go eat dinner somewhere. He didn't include my parents in the invitation, however. As I said, it was a fundamental mistake. Rule one in recruiting: Win the support of mom and dad, especially mom.

During my four years at Nebraska, we won three times against Colorado. The one we lost, in

ESPN's Lee Corso claimed Colorado's team was the "greatest team ever" two years ago, but the Husker fans and team thought and proved otherwise.

ESPN ESPN

Bob Berry



Bob Berry

1967, was, perhaps, the most difficult loss we experienced that year, or any year. We were coming off a 10-0 loss to Kansas the week before, and everyone was physically and mentally ready to get after Colorado.

We played the game in Lincoln, and we beat Colorado in virtually every category except one — the score. Colorado fumbled early in the game. We recovered and took it in for a touchdown. Frank Patrick threw a pass to Ben Gregory for the score. Ben is now the running backs coach at Colorado.

(A quick aside here. People often ask who the toughest runner I ever played against was. The answer is: Ben Gregory. You saw lots of fireflies and heard lots of bells after hitting the "Pope.")

In the second quarter, we had fourth-and-inches for a first down on our own 29-yard line but didn't make it. Colorado took over at the 29 and in the one Black Shirt breakdown of the day, scored quickly to tie the game. Then with less than a minute remaining in the first half, Colorado's Dick Anderson intercepted a pass, headed down the sideline and, just when it appeared he would

be tackled, lateralized to Mike Veeder, a defensive tackle. Veeder rumbled and stumbled another 45 yards for a touchdown.

Colorado took a 14-7 lead and a bunch of momentum to the locker room at halftime.

We came out in the second half and went 80 yards for a touchdown, but missed the extra-point kick and trailed 14-13. Then late in the third quarter, lightning hit again in the same Husker spot. Colorado defensive back Jeff Raymond picked off a pass and went 67 yards for a touchdown.

Colorado 21, Huskers 13. A late field goal made the final score 21-16. The Buffs intercepted another pass on the last play of the game, as if to say: "Here, remember how we won this game."

I see Dick Anderson and his brother, Bobby, from time to time, and we always talk about the game in 1967. Dick went on to become an all-pro defensive back for the Miami Dolphins and is now among the leading money-winners on the Celebrity Golf Tour. Bobby played quarterback at Colorado for two years then moved to tailback his

senior year. He's a member of the Colorado radio network crew.

My junior year, we played at Boulder and won 22-6. My senior year, we borrowed a page from the 1967 game as teammate Dana Stephenson swiped three Colorado passes, setting up two touchdowns, and we shut down Bobby Anderson, limiting him to 42 yards rushing. We won, 20-7. Stephenson's interceptions set a school record at the time. The record has since been tied by Joe Blahak, against Kansas State, in 1970 and by Ric Lindquist, also against Kansas State, in 1979. (They send their regards to the Wildcats.)

But now it's Colorado-Nebraska, a series that has seen the Buffs win only 14 times in 54 games, with two ties. It's a series that, as we have seen and experienced over the years, causes the blood to flow a little faster through the veins of the fans, the media, the players and the coaches. Although it is such a fine sight to see, no one will ever be takin' it easy on the football field when Colorado and Nebraska square off.

Just the same, I'll be backing up the flatbed Ford to Memorial Stadium. Hope to see you there. ■



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Frost Is The Big 12's Best Quarterback

Koy Detmer's numbers may be flashy, but if Scott Frost leads Nebraska past Colorado he deserves to be the Big 12 first-team quarterback

cott Frost must wonder if he'll ever be forgiven for his part in Nebraska's 19-0 loss at Arizona State. It was no more his fault than anyone else's. But, as we all know, a quarterback gets

more than his share of credit when things go right and he gets more than his share of blame when they don't.

In Frost's case, the blame was increased, not only because he was following arguably the best option quarterback Nebraska has ever had, but also because after the game, Arizona State coach Bruce Snyder put the blame squarely on him. "We knew a lot about their offense, but the one thing we didn't know about was Scott Frost," Snyder said. "Maybe he was the next Tommie Frazier. We didn't know. But we decided that we wanted to take everybody else away and see if Scott Frost could beat us."

Frost, of course, could not, which should come as no surprise, really, because, as any football coach should know, one player can't beat 22, regardless of how talented he might be.

Before proceeding, it should be noted that Snyder was irate last season over what he perceived to be Tom Osborne's attempt to embarrass his team in a 77-28 loss. Yet, he didn't hesitate to single out Frost in explaining how Arizona State was able to pull off its momentous upset of the Cornhuskers.

Why would a coach place such a burden on an opposing player?

Two-thirds of the way through the season, Frost was still trying to set aside the notion that he alone had been responsible for the Arizona State loss. Somehow, the subject came up during a news conference on the Tuesday following the Cornhuskers' 73-21 victory at Oklahoma.

By
**MIKE
BABCOCK**



For the second Saturday in a row, Frost had thrown for three touchdowns, an extremely rare occurrence at Nebraska. Yet he felt compelled to discuss a game that had been played six weeks before.

"Quite honestly, the Arizona State defensive coordinator (Phil Snow) was trying to take some credit for the win," Frost said. "He did a great job, so I'm not taking anything away from him."

"Basically, that's how he summed up his game plan. He can say that. But if you watched that game and some of the other games where people said they tried to do that (take away everything else) it isn't like they were giving me windows of opportunity, left and right, to take."

Frost's point, which should be obvious, was that Nebraska's offense was ineffective against Arizona State — and has been at times in other games — for various reasons, not all of them related to his play at quarterback. "Basically, what it comes down to is that they (defenses) line a

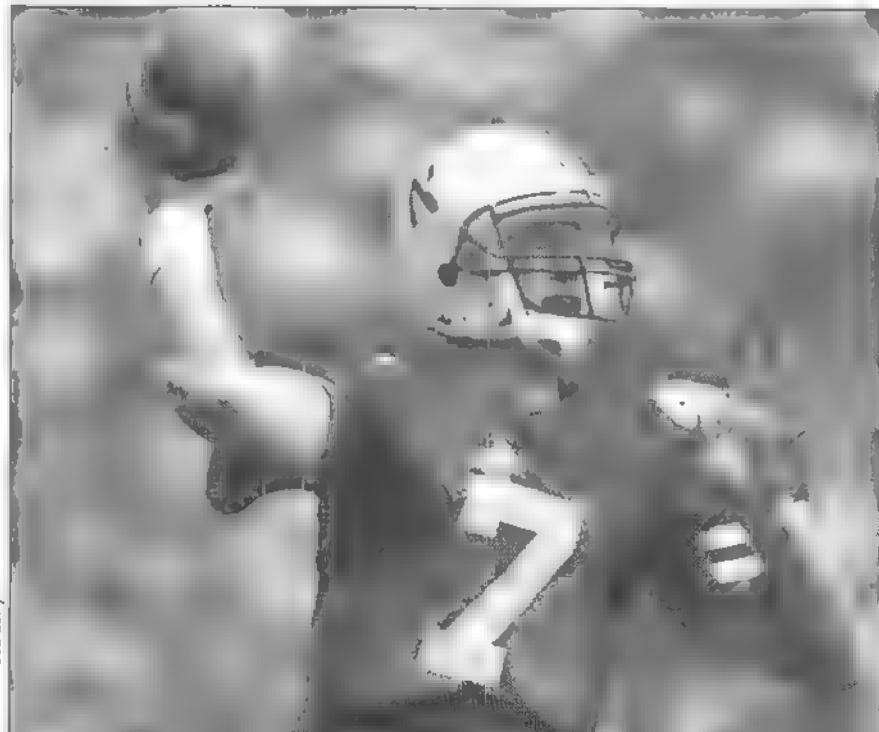
Frost may be an option quarterback, but his passing ability has made him dangerous.

lot of people up at the line of scrimmage and try to beat us with the passing game," said Frost. "If we're going to be a good team, we still have to be able to run the ball no matter what kind of defense they put us up against. Like I said, it's a team thing. You shouldn't be able to take everything but one guy away, anyway."

That principle will hold true when Nebraska finishes the regular season against Colorado the day after Thanksgiving, which is why I bother to bring up the Arizona State game one more time.

The outcome of the game is the only concern, to be sure. But among the game's many subplots is an inevitable comparison between Frost and Colorado quarterback Koy Detmer, who almost certainly will be chosen as first-team All-Big 12 — if his selection hasn't already been announced by kickoff.

This is an admittedly partisan endorsement, considering it appears in *Huskers Illustrated*. But if Nebraska wins the game and Frost plays reasonably well, a good case could be made for his being first-team all-conference, even though he's not a senior like Detmer and his



Bob Berry

responsibilities in Nebraska's option offense aren't as likely to produce flashy statistics the way Colorado's passing does.

If you don't think that's a significant factor in selecting an all-conference quarterback, consider recent history. Frazier was the choice of both the *Associated Press* and Big Eight coaches last season, but the previous season, Kansas State's Chad May and Colorado's Kordell Stewart were the picks, and the year before that, May was the choice of the coaches while Oklahoma's Cale Gundy got the AP vote.

In 1992, Kansas' Chip Hilleary was a first-team All-Big Eight pick.

In 10 of the 11 seasons before Hilleary, the quarterback of the Big Eight champion received first-team all-conference honors from either the AP or the coaches, or both. The only exception was Nebraska's Steve Taylor, who was first-team in 1987, when Oklahoma won the title.

Frost's statistics aren't nearly as impressive as Detmer's, which is to be expected given the responsibilities of each. But there shouldn't be a greater emphasis placed on passing, particularly in a conference like the Big 12, where a premium is placed on being able to run the ball.

Frost "has come on strong," Cornhusker quarterbacks coach Turner Gill (a three-time, first-team all-conference quarterback) said at the Extra-Point Club luncheon on the Monday following the Oklahoma game. "In the option, he's been good. Some balls have been on the ground, but that's not totally a Scott situation. We're looking for a quarterback to prevent dead plays. He does that."

As for Frost's passing, which has shown marked improvement as the season has gone on, "I feel like he can be a guy who can be around the 60-percent mark," Gill said. "Unfortunately, we've had a few dropped balls."

Even without that, Frost has done what has been asked of him. And he's done it well.

If Nebraska defeats Colorado, it will do so not just because of Frost. But if he can be singled out as the reason for the Arizona State loss, then he can also be singled out for leading the Cornhuskers to a sixth consecutive conference championship. They would still have to win the Big 12 playoff at St. Louis on Dec. 7, to accomplish that. But by then the all-conference team will have been announced. ■

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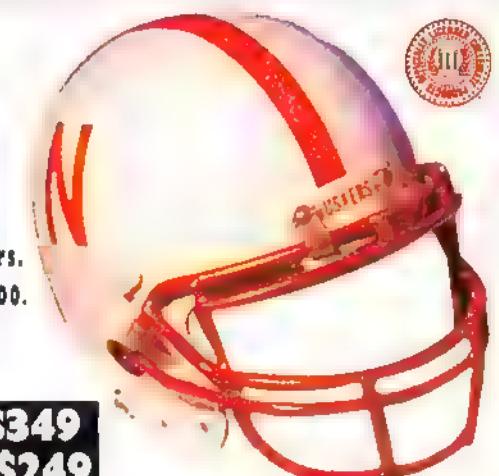
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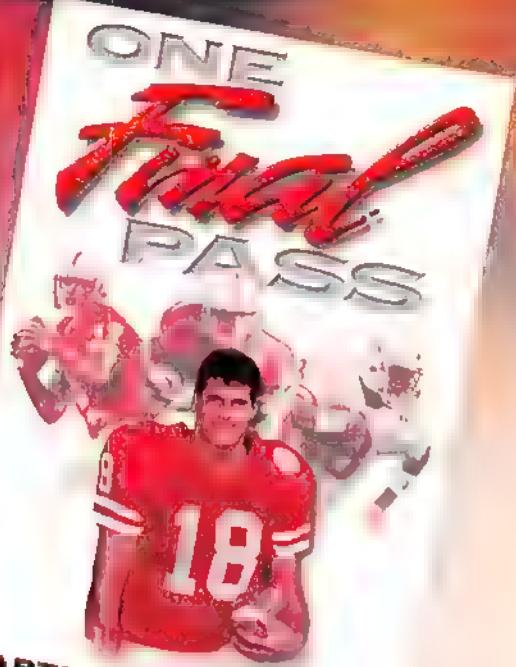
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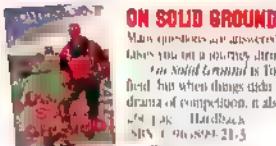
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Nebraska soccer player Kari Uppinghouse isn't quite sure what her future holds. What beginning actress really does?

"I just would love to be in the movies," Uppinghouse said. "I'm a communications major, and I plan on a minor in theater arts. I'm going to try to do some acting in the future, just try it out for a few years, maybe out in California."

Uppinghouse, a junior midfielder from Littleton, Colo., admits that she is just getting started in acting, but she believes that the skills she possesses are well-suited to an acting career.

"I've been taking some speech classes and public speaking courses that seem to make it easier to get up in front of people," said Uppinghouse. "Soccer helps through exposure to the media and fans. Soccer has helped because it teaches you about not giving up

on things. Acting is kind of a chancy thing to try. But I've learned not to give up and how to stay focused. We'll see how it goes."

Currently, Uppinghouse is concentrating on school, friends, college activities and leading one of the best college soccer teams in the country. The Huskers, who finished the regular season with a 19-0 and ranked No. 5 in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Poll, are in only their third year of intercollegiate play. Uppinghouse has been a catalyst for their success, after transferring from George Mason two years ago.

Nebraska finished the regular season with a 4.36 goals-per-game average, fourth-highest in the country. Uppinghouse was tied for third in the Big 12 and 20th nationally with 44 points and 17 goals.

Her six game-winning goals established a school record. Game-winning goals against Drake, Texas

A&M and Vanderbilt proved Uppinghouse doesn't just produce when it doesn't matter. She produces in the clutch. All three of those teams were ranked in the Top 25 at the end of the regular season.

Numbers such as those, along with several other attributes, make Uppinghouse an effective team leader, according to Nebraska coach John Walker. "One thing that makes her a team leader is that she has the ability," he said. "There is a measure of respect that can be earned from that. And she also just works hard. She trains hard every day, and that is another key to being a leader — setting that example."

The example set by Uppinghouse is not overt. She doesn't lead cheers or lecture the squad in order to get results. She says the team is mature and knows what is needed in most situations. "I'm not the most vocal



Uppinghouse finished the regular season tied in the Big 12 (20th nationally) with 44 points and 17 goals.

person around," Uppinghouse said. "I try to lead by hard work and example more than anything. But I don't think it was difficult for us to stay focused. It was easy to keep our mind on the hard work."

Uppinghouse believes that Walker and the Nebraska program have played a huge part in her growth as a soccer player. But even at George Mason, which is located in Fairfax, Va., she went through a valuable learning experience. George Mason finished this season 12-5-1 and ranked 22nd.

"There is not that much difference soccer-wise between Nebraska and George Mason," Uppinghouse said. "George Mason is a really competitive team, and we had a great year when I was there. It was just as serious. Here, it is more enjoyable because there is just a lot more that they have to offer you as an athlete. The intensity level is about the same as it was at George Mason."

"One of the reasons I didn't like George Mason is that it was a big commuter school, and there wasn't a whole lot of social activities going on outside of sports and school. At Nebraska, it just seems like more of a college atmosphere."

Despite her career aspirations as an actress, Uppinghouse also holds out hope that there may be opportunities in soccer at the professional level. "More doors are opening as far as soccer goes," she said. "I have kind of been considering soccer opportunities, just like I've been considering acting possibilities. My No. 1 athletic priority is soccer. If I do have opportunities in soccer, I think I will take those because it's really what I like the most. I'm even thinking about the possibility of going overseas."

According to Walker, Uppinghouse would be more than qualified for a career in soccer. "Definitely, she has the skill," he said. "The groundwork is set up for a women's professional soccer league. At the Olympics, there were 80,000 people at the women's final match. The Olympics raised the profile of women's soccer."

But Walker isn't ready to let Uppinghouse run off to the pro ranks or the silver screen yet.

"She has her senior year ahead of her," he said. "She has improved steadily year after year. There was an acclimation process for her here, but she has really started to play well. It has been an upward progression." ■

Nuskers Win Big 12 Tournament, Land Five Players On First-Team All-Conference Squad

The Nebraska women's soccer team, ranked fifth in the nation with a perfect record of 21-0 (including 11-0 against Big 12 opposition) got most of the honors when the Big 12 Conference handed out its post-season awards.

Nebraska junior midfielder Kari Uppinghouse capped off a stellar 1996 season after being named co-Player of the Year in the conference by a vote of league coaches. Uppinghouse shared the honor with Texas A&M forward Bryn Blalack.

Nebraska head coach John Walker was named Big 12 Coach of the Year.

Uppinghouse led the Cornhuskers in scoring in 1996, with 44 points on 17 goals (including six game-winning goals) and 10 assists during the regular season. Joining Uppinghouse on All-Big 12 team were four teammates: defender Stephanie Vacek, midfielder Jenny Benson, forward Lindsay Eddleman and forward Isabelle Morneau.

Two Huskers, goalkeeper Becky Hornbacher and midfielder Kristen Gay, were named to the second team.

Hornbacher was credited with all 21 Nebraska victories this season, giving up just seven goals, for a 0.45 goals-against average.

The Huskers finished their perfect regular season by winning the SMU/Puma Classic in Dallas, Texas, shutting out the TCU Lady Frogs, 4-0, and then blanking the SMU Mustangs, 2-0, to run their school-record winning streak to 19 games.

The Huskers' perfect record earned Nebraska the top seed at the Big 12 Soccer Championships in St. Louis. After a first-round bye, the Huskers defeated Missouri (2-1) before meeting No. 7 Texas A&M in the final.

Eddleman gave the Huskers a 1-0 victory over the Aggies after hitting a goal at the 117th-minute mark in the second overtime. Hornbacher, Uppinghouse, Benson and Morneau were named to the all-tournament team. ■



John Walker was named Big 12 Coach of the Year.

All-Big 12 Conference Teams

FIRST TEAM

Melanie Wilson, A&M
Sandy Edwards, A&M
Tina Robinson, A&M
Stephanie Vacek, NU
Jenny Benson, NU
Diana Rowe, A&M
Kari Uppinghouse, NU
Bryn Blalack, A&M
Lindsay Eddleman, NU
Kristen Koop, A&M
Isabelle Morneau, NU

SECOND TEAM

GK Becky Hornbacher, NU
D Meghan Crona, Baylor
D Haley Hauptman, Texas
D Sarah Trombley, Texas
MF Kristen Gay, NU
MF Sonia Ibanez, A&M
MF Britt Talley, Baylor
F Molly Cameron, Baylor
F Kristy Frantz, Texas Tech
F Courtney Sanders, Baylor
F Yvette Okler, A&M

Coach of the Year: John Walker, Nebraska

Co-Player of the Year: Kari Uppinghouse, NU/Bryn Blalack, A&M

Rookie of the Year: Melanie Wilson, A&M

There was a time when Nebraska volleyball players Stacie Maser and Renee Saunders were simply roadblocks in each other's path to athletic success. Now they're on the same path.

Saunders, a sophomore outside hitter from Omaha (Marian) High School, was once a rival of Maser, a graduate of Lincoln (Northeast). While both players laugh and joke about it now, it was serious business when they had different goals and a different focus, just a few years ago.

"We knew of each other," Saunders said. "I didn't know Stacie person to person, but I knew of her. I knew that if we were playing Northeast, we were playing Stacie."

"Back in high school, all the teams seemed to have the one player. If you stopped that person, you were going to win that game. We had to stop Stacie."

Maser, a middle blocker and red-shirted sophomore, said that the same rule of thumb held true for her team. "We knew each other, no question," she said, referring to Saunders.

For Saunders and Maser, those days are over. But the commitment to practice has carried over to their college careers. And both players believe that practice will carry the Huskers to another level, which, in turn, might be just enough to push them to a second consecutive national championship.

"I think practice is where we are going to become champions," Maser said.

"I know that sounds corny, but it's true. Coach (Terry) Pettit made the comment that the week before we played Texas, we were having great practices and no balls were dropping."

The week before the (Texas) Tech game, some of us weren't focused all the time, and it cost us."

Nebraska, which was ranked No. 7 in the USA Today Coaches Poll and No. 5 in the *Volleyball Magazine* poll as of Oct. 28, dropped a 15-7, 9-15, 15-10, 13-15, 12-15 decision to then-No. 20 Texas Tech on Oct. 26 in Lubbock, Texas. The loss was the Huskers' first in Big 12 Conference play this season, and their first to a conference opponent in the former Big Eight, dating to Nov. 27, 1993.

According to Maser and Saunders, the situation now is not

the same as it was after the Hawaii loss early in the season — a loss that created doubt on the team. The Huskers are not reeling out of control.

Both Saunders and Maser, letter-winners on last season's national championship team, think this Husker team has a different makeup. It is still the type of makeup that can produce a title, however.

Renee Saunders dedicated herself to becoming more comfortable on the court this year.

Maser will have to help out down the stretch. Neither has seen constant action this season, but Pettit said both players are making the kind of progress needed to produce consistent results in the clutch.

"With Renee, the hardest thing to overcome was her lack of confidence," Pettit said. "She has dedicated herself to becoming more comfortable out there, and it's working. With Stacie, it's simply a matter of getting her more and more playing time. She moves well away from the setter, and that will create opportu-



Jon Waller

Former high school rivals, Stacie Maser and Renee Saunders work together to put Nebraska in national title contention

By Mike Friend

ON COMMON GROUND

"There are a lot of people who are different in a lot of ways on this team," Saunders said. "Our makeup is different, but we all have the same type of focus that we had last year."

Another national championship is within the realm of possibility. "We can do it. Everybody knows we can do it," said Saunders.

On a team riddled with injuries and depth problems, Saunders and

nities for her, and for us as a team."

For that to happen, however, Maser thinks that the Huskers will have to come together, much in the same way that she came together with an old high school rival.

"The main thing is that Renee and I have so many things in common, now that we're working toward the same goal. It goes that way for the whole team," Maser said. ■



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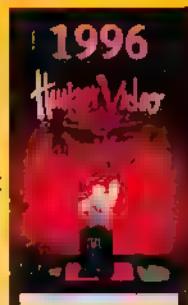
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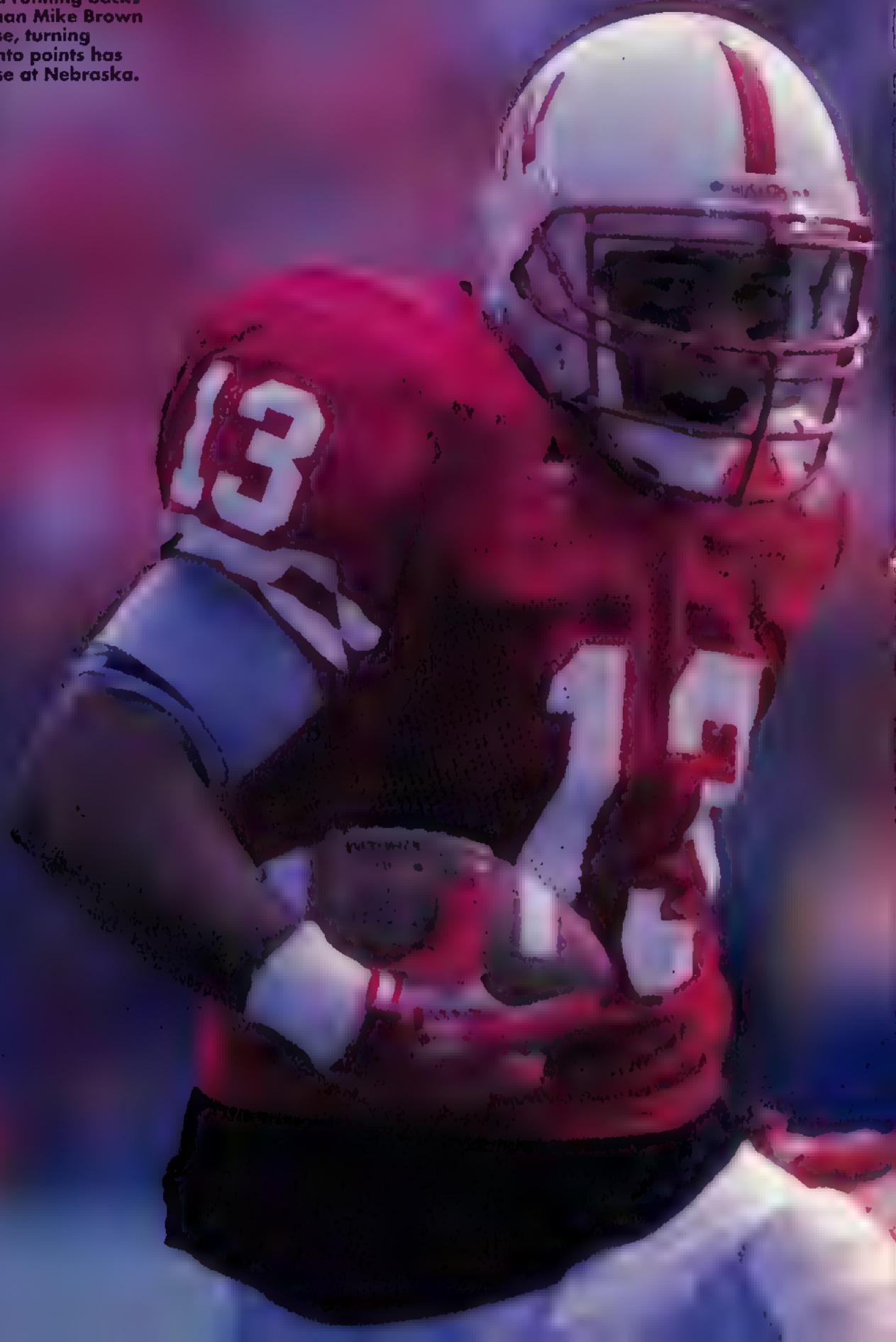
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With converted running backs such as freshman Mike Brown playing defense, turning interceptions into points has been on the rise at Nebraska.



Another Scoring Explosion



EARLY IN THE third quarter of Nebraska's 73-21 victory at Oklahoma, senior quarterback Eric Moore threw what, in retrospect, was an injudicious pass. Oklahoma was third-and-6 at the Nebraska 24-yard line. The Sooners trailed 17-0. A touchdown could have put them back in contention.

Moore, whose intended receiver had run a slant pattern, released the pass before Ralph Brown turned to look for the ball, which "was coming right at me," the Cornhusker cornerback said later.

Brown reacted, caught the ball and didn't quit running until he had reached the end zone, 83 yards away. The final 15 yards were the most difficult. "I haven't run that far since high school," he said.

Such a jaunt with the football was once fairly commonplace for the true freshman from Hacienda Heights, Calif. Brown was a running back as well as an All-American defensive back at Bishop (Amat) High School in LaPuenta. Check that, he was an outstanding running back. He rushed for 2,246 yards and scored 29 touchdowns as a senior, to lead Bishop Amat to the Southern Section CIF championship. He was the seventh-leading rusher in all of California. He scored six touchdowns in one game.

There was a time, not all that long ago, when "Ralph Brown might have been an offensive player (at Nebraska)," Eric Stokes said recently. Stokes, Nebraska's starting free safety, probably could have played offense, too. Like Brown, he also played running back in high school. He established school records at Lincoln (East) High for rushing yards in a season (1,203) and a career (2,309).

Those numbers aren't what earned him a scholarship, however. "When I came in, they told me: 'You're going to be a defensive back.' They weren't thinking of any other position," Stokes said.

Stokes wasn't thinking of any other position, either. Although he played both offense and defense in high school, he knew defense offered the best opportunity for success at the collegiate level.

It is still not unusual for high school football players to go both ways, even in large metropolitan schools. But more are specializing now, and as a result, "you're getting guys who were specifically recruited for offense or defense," said Stokes. Fewer recruits are listed as either-or.

That's also a function of the NCAA's reduction of football scholarships. Programs now must recruit to fill specific needs, rather than simply recruiting the best players regardless of position and then sorting them out once they arrive on campus, as was often the case 10 or 15 years ago.

Russell Gary, a three-year starter and an All-Big Eight safety in 1980 from Minneapolis, Minn., played I-back on the freshman team his first fall at Nebraska. Before spring practice of his freshman year, however, he was moved to defense because the Cornhusker coaches had been more impressed by another scholarship freshman running back from Omaha, Craig Johnson. One was destined to play offense, the other defense. But the determination hadn't been made when they signed letters of intent.

**The Black Shirts
have been
downright offensive
in 1996 to become
the highest-scoring
defense under Tom
Osborne**

• by mike babcock

Now such determinations usually are. Mike Minter, Nebraska's starting rover and a co-captain, led Oklahoma's large-schools class in rushing as a senior at Lawton High School. He gained 1,589 yards and scored 21 touchdowns. "Mike could have been a running back (at Nebraska)," Stokes said.

Those who watched Minter return an interception 84 yards for a touchdown in the 55-14 opening-game victory against Michigan State could attest to that. He certainly looked like a running back.

It is appropriate that two of Nebraska's longest scoring plays this season have been made by defensive backs. The reason should be fairly obvious. Rarely has the defense been so offensive.

As the Cornhuskers headed into the home stretch of the regular season, the defense had already established a record for scoring points during Tom Osborne's tenure as head coach after adding another nine to its 1996 total against Missouri.

Through the Oklahoma game, the defense had scored 42 points . . . actually scored, not just set up the offense by intercepting a pass or recovering a fumble. The total included touchdown returns of three interceptions, two punts and one fumble. The extra-point kicks were successful after each.

That has been a point of pride for the defense, according to Stokes. "When we set our goals, we definitely try to score," he said. "That's really demoralizing (for opponents). We've been taking people's hearts right out of the game. I've noticed a big change. Before, we talked about it. But now it's happening. We feel like we can get at least seven points every game, and we just about have."

The defense got 21 points in the opener against Michigan State, scoring on Mike Fullman's 62-yard punt return and Grant Wistrom's 9-yard interception return as well as Minter's return — which, like Brown's against Oklahoma, increased Nebraska's lead to 24-0. Go figure.

Even without those touchdowns, however, this year's defense would be unique. Scoring defensively is extremely difficult. The defense that ranked fourth in Division I-A and gave Nebraska the national title in

1994 certainly set up its share of touchdowns, but it didn't score any. And the 1984 Cornhusker defense, which led the nation, scored only twice: on a punt return and an interception return.

Although such records aren't kept, and there's no good way to determine how many points were set up by turnovers very far back in time, Osborne's most offensive defense prior to this season appears to have been the one of a year ago, which scored touchdowns on four interception returns, one fumble return and one punt return; recov-

Michael Chow



Mike Minter contributed 12 of Nebraska's 51 defensive points through nine games.

ered a fumbled punt for a touchdown and blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety. (The extra-point failed after one of the seven touchdowns, making the total 50.)

The 1987 team had a defense that contributed 37 points, and the 1986 defense scored 30 points.

Nebraska's most offensive defense, at least in the modern era, was almost certainly the one in 1971, which accounted for a school single-season record 47 turnovers and contributed to a school-record plus-26 turnover margin. The next-best turnover margin (since 1946) was plus-18 in 1992.

The second-best season for turnovers was 45, including a school-record 30 pass interceptions, in 1970. (The 33 interceptions and 51 turnovers listed for 1965 in the media guide are misprints.)

Bob Devaney's 1971 team got 60 points out of its defense, with the biggest contributions coming from Johnny Rodgers, who returned three punts for touchdowns, and Dave Mason, who returned three of his six pass interceptions for touchdowns. The 1970 team scored 36 points on defense.

Nebraska's ability to score on defense this season is a result of mindset and ability. "Usually when a defense does that, it's because the defense has great athletes," receivers coach Ron Brown said. "To take an interception back all the way is a very athletic thing. You don't work on that in practice."

There are general principles for interception returns. But each is unique, depending on the circumstances. Ralph Brown hadn't practiced the play that produced his 83-yard return. His touchdown run was a result of speed and instinct, enhanced, no doubt, by his background as a running back.

"We're blessed with great athletes (on defense as well as offense)," said Ron Brown. And several others on the defense, besides Ralph Brown and Minter, played running back in high school.

Mike Brown, the second-team left cornerback, was Arizona's top prep running back, rushing for 2,036 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior at Scottsdale's Saguaro High. He also caught 11 passes for 308 yards and three touchdowns, producing those numbers despite missing two games because of a calf injury. He was honored as both the best offensive and the best defensive high school player in Arizona a year ago.

Jay Foreman, who started every game at strongside linebacker last season and has alternated with Jon Hesse at middle linebacker this season, rushed for 950 yards, had 421 yards in pass receptions and scored a school record 17 touchdowns as a senior at Eden Prairie, Minn., High School. Foreman was a versatile running back, also completing three-of-four passes for 182 yards and three touchdowns.

Hesse, by the way, also played running back some for Lincoln, Neb., Southeast High's Class A state championship team. There wasn't much he didn't do, for that matter. He played some at wide receiver

and wingback on offense, as well; he returned punts, punted and handled the place-kicking.

Strongside linebacker Jamel Williams planned to play I-back when he picked Nebraska. Had it not been for a knee injury, he might have had an opportunity to do so. But, with encouragement from Osborne, he decided he'd be better off on defense, where his knees would be less susceptible to injury. Williams also was a sprinter on the track team last season, another indication of his athletic ability.

Weakside linebacker Terrell Farley distinguished himself on the track team as well as the football team at Kendrick High in Columbus, Ga. He was the state champion in the 400 meters as a senior.

Williams and Farley sprinted downfield to make important blocks near the end of Ralph Brown's interception return for a touchdown against Oklahoma, evidence not only of their extraordinary speed but also of an attitude that has enhanced the defense's chances of scoring, according to Ron Brown. "When the mentality is to score, not just to stop opponents but to create transition, you've got to have an assertive, aggressive attitude," he said. And Nebraska definitely has had that, across the board.

The extra effort represented by the blocks of Williams and Farley "has been important to winning championships . . . our quarterbacks blocking, receivers who block, putting our best people on special teams," said Ron Brown. "Some teams are content just to get by. We take it a step further."

The defensive players haven't lost their focus trying to put points on the board. The touchdowns have come from being in the right place at the right time. "You let the game come to you," Stokes said. "I don't think anyone has gone out of his responsibilities."

"There's been a lot of consistency, with all 11 guys on the same page."

Nebraska's defense has played at a consistently high level.

Now, it faces its greatest test to date when Colorado comes to Memorial Stadium for the regular-season final on the day after Thanksgiving. "Right now, we're starting to realize that, clearly, people will remember this defense," said Stokes.

Though it is only one of many, the Colorado game will significantly influence that recollection. ■

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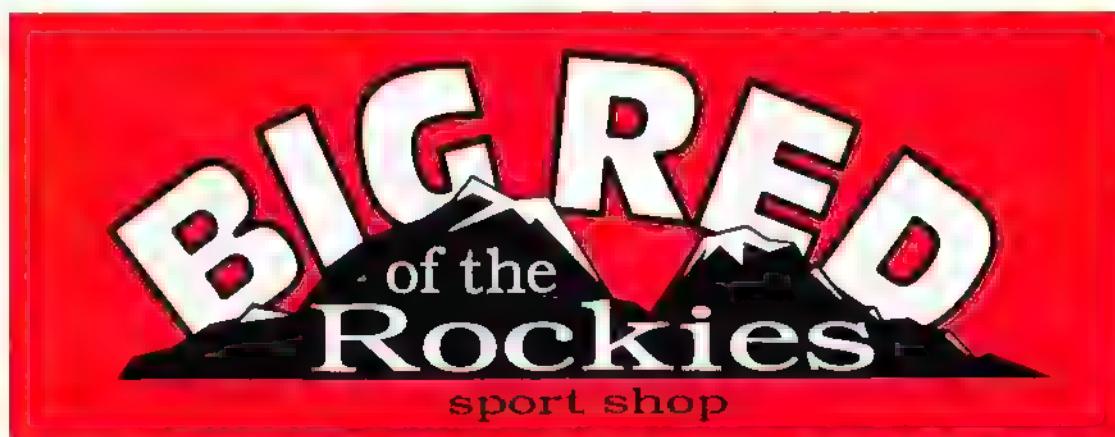
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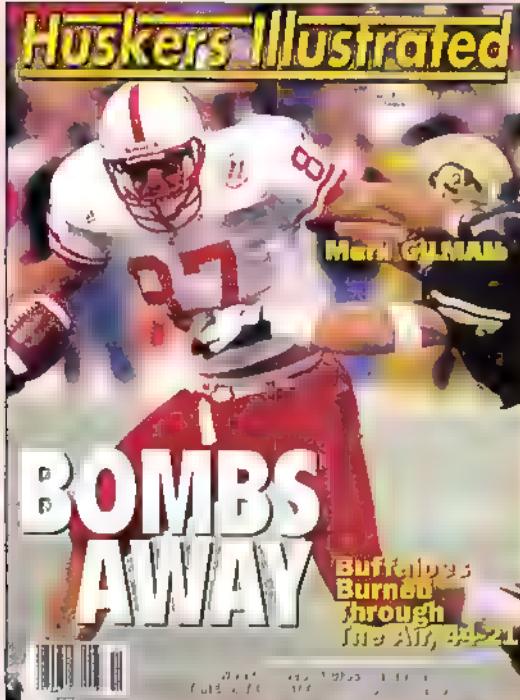
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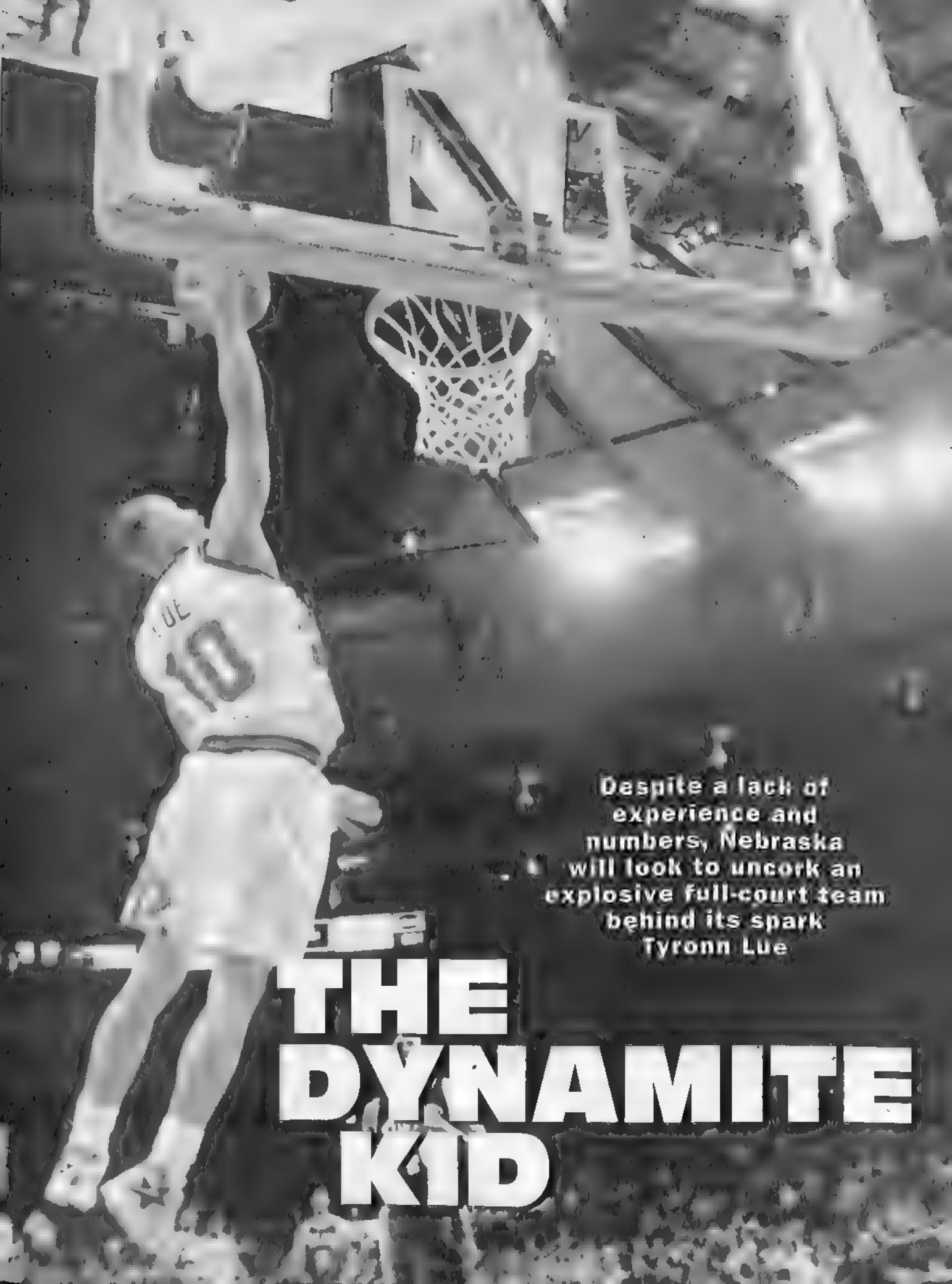
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Despite a lack of experience and numbers, Nebraska will look to uncork an explosive full-court team behind its spark
Tyronn Lue

THE DYNAMITE KID

D

anny Nee's enthusiasm for Tyronn Lue was unmistakable. His praise for the sophomore point guard, during a news conference the week of Nebraska's first preseason exhibition, was lavish.

"I think he's one of the premier point guards in the country," Nee said. "We're going to groom him to be a great player. He's a good player now, but he's going to be a great player come next March."

Nee was asked if he had ever coached a more mature sophomore than Lue.

"More mature? Yes," he said, quickly adding: "Better? No."

During a radio interview a couple of days earlier, Nee predicted that the 6-foot, 170-pound Lue would rank with the best ever to play for the Cornhuskers by the time he finished his career.

Lue's freshman season was certainly a solid base on which to build such a career. He started every game but one — the final home game, "Senior Day" — and established a Nebraska freshman record for assists, with 144. He averaged 8.5 points and was picked to the Big Eight All-Freshman team.

Beyond the numbers, however, is the fact that Lue stepped right into the lineup at point guard, a position roughly comparable to a football quarterback. (Nee even compared Lue's impact as a fresh-

man to that of former Cornhusker quarterback Tommie Frazier . . . the ultimate compliment.)

Lue asserted himself under circumstances that left him little choice. Point guard is no place to hide, particularly when you're surrounded by veteran teammates, which Lue was. Now he's a veteran, on a team that is about as short on experience as it is limited in numbers. Mikki Moore and Bernard Garner are the only seniors, and the only others besides Lue who played significant minutes last season.

Nebraska will be inside-oriented, with Moore and Garner, Nee said in assessing his team, which opens at Texas on Nov. 23, in what will be treated as a non-conference game even though the Cornhuskers and Longhorns are members (albeit in opposite divisions) of the new Big 12 Conference. They are scheduled to play an interdivisional conference game, televised by Creative Sports, in Lincoln on Feb. 16.

Texas, with 6-foot-6 guard Reggie Freeman, has been ranked among the nation's Top 25 by most publications, so there won't be any easing into the season. Sophomore DeJuan Vasquez, the Longhorns' 6-foot-4 point guard, took immediate charge

as a true freshman like Lue, starting 25 games.

In preparation for this season, Nee has had Lue watching videotape of Miami Heat guard Tim Hardaway, who "averages 10 assists a game and 22 points," Nee said. "That's what I want Tyronn to do. I want him averaging 20-plus points a game and 10 assists. The ball is going to be in his hands a lot."

Only three Cornhusker guards have ever averaged as many as 20 points a game for a season: Eric Piatkowski (21.5 in 1994), Marvin Stewart (21.4 in 1971) and Jerry Fort (20.2 in 1975).

Even so, Lue is ready, if not eager, to accept the challenge. "It's not pressure," he said. "I'm going to go out every night and play well, play hard. If I get 20 points and 10 assists a game, then I do."

Lue scored 30 points and made nine assists in his second game at

Nebraska, a 114-106 overtime victory against Oregon in the semifinals of the Big Island Invitational at Hilo, Hawaii. He turned in a similarly impressive performance against nationally ranked Kansas, with 21 points and four assists in an 81-71 loss at Lawrence in mid-February. "I want him to play like he played against Kansas every night," said Nee. "You know what I'm talking about . . . regarding Kansas, people (on teams) like that, they do it every night, and Tyronn has to learn that. He's just realizing how good he is."

Nee's plan is for Lue to join Garner and Moore as Nebraska's "go-to guys" this season. That scoring responsibility "is more clearly defined this year than last year," Nee said. "We had go-to guys, but we didn't hit the shots. And sometimes, there was competition for the go-to guy (role). This year, Lue and Bernard are the keys. I think Mikki can be very important, too. He's great at passing. Bernard is an excellent three-point shooter. And Tyronn is as good a penetrator as there is in the league."

Lue's offensive skills are more than matched at the defensive end of the court. That's a function of his athletic ability. Though such numbers aren't tied to performance one-to-one, Lue has scored near the top in strength and conditioning tests, with a 35-inch vertical jump and 1.52 speed at 10 yards.

"I've never coached a quicker and better defensive player," Nee said.

Nee wants to cut down on turnovers and improve in half-court play, without sacrificing the up-tempo style that has been his trademark. "We don't want to change that," he said. "But we have to add the weapon of half-court execution. With (Iowa State's Tim) Floyd, (Oklahoma State's Eddie) Sutton and (Kansas' Roy) Williams (in the Big 12's north division), we're going to have to execute in the half-court."

"When you execute in the half-court, you have to cut down on turnovers. We have to get shots using the clock. That's the addition to this year's team," an emphasis on half-court execution.

Even so, the Cornhuskers will attempt to run. They'll try to set a fast pace. "You're going to say: 'You haven't changed your (offensive) philosophy,'" Nee said. "We're still a full-court team."

With a full-court point guard. "Tyronn Lue is dynamite in the fast-break game," said Nee. ■



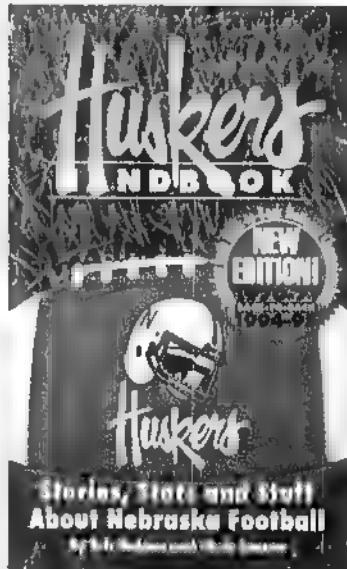


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The kings of their old conferences (Kansas and Texas) will square off in search of the Big 12's first basketball crown
• by Al Eschbach

NORTH

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2. IOWA ST.
3. MISSOURI
4. NEBRASKA
5. KANSAS ST.
6. COLORADO

SOUTH

1. TEXAS
2. OKLAHOMA ST.
3. OKLAHOMA
4. TEXAS TECH
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It's something brand new. So you have to figure it's going to be exciting.

We've had the advent of Big 12 football this fall. Next comes Big 12 basketball. Gone are the days of the Big Eight being a dominant hoops conference. What we have are four Southwest Conference teams

— Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech joining the Big Eight. Actually you have those four schools combining with Oklahoma and Oklahoma State to make up the South Division.

The Southwest Conference hasn't been known for its basketball prowess, but OU coach Kelvin Sampson is excited.

"I like going into the Big 12 and I like the South Division," Sampson said. "I think it creates geographical rivalries. The rivalry between Oklahoma and Texas A&M will be far greater than Oklahoma-Iowa

State would ever be. Texas and Oklahoma represent a natural rivalry because of the Red River rivalry. I think we'll build a healthy rivalry with Baylor and Texas Tech, and of course, Oklahoma State. So every game we play is going to be an intense game. That's what college basketball is all about."

Let's look at the Big 12, starting with the South Division, and how we see the race for the first crown.

SOUTH DIVISION

1. TEXAS

The Longhorns are loaded. They lost only two players (one was a walk-on) from a team that finished 21-10 last year and beat Michigan (80-76) in the NCAA tournament. As usual, Tom Penders' team will rely on quick, excellent shooting perimeter players. Leading the way is 6-foot-6 guard Reggie Freeman. The talented senior from New York aver-

aged 22.4 points a game (fourth best in the NCAA among returning players) last season. He'll get plenty of help from sophomore Kris Clack, who averaged 9.4 points. Clack needs to improve his free-throw shooting after hitting only 53.4 percent last season. The point guard slot is somewhat of a mystery. It could go to Dallas (Carter) freshman Anthony Goode, who averaged 18 points and 10 assists during his senior year.

There are questions up front. Gone is Sonny Alvarado, who averaged 12.6 points a year ago. Help must come from 6-9 senior Dennis Jordan and 6-9 freshman Gabe Muoneke.

2. OKLAHOMA STATE

The Cowboys are another team that will be relying on newcomers. Last season was not one of the best for Eddie Sutton. He turned down an NIT bid after the Pokes finished

17-10. A loss to Kansas State in the Big Eight tournament cost the Cowboys a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Cowboys look solid on the perimeters, however. Adrian Peterson is a 6-4 guard who showed signs of stardom as a freshman. He averaged 11.3 points. Chanti Roberts is back for his senior year after averaging 11.1 points and 5.4 boards. He may be pushed by 6-6 Desmond Mason, who was one of the top prep players in Texas. Jason Skaer, who averaged 8.8 points, will fit into the mix somewhere. And 6-7 Maurice Robinson has slimmed down and is being counted on for big help up front.

There are questions at center and point guard. At center, 6-11 Brett Robisch, a transfer from Illinois, is slated to be the starting center once he becomes eligible in December. The point guard at the beginning of the season should be Marlon Dorsey, who was a two guard last year. Also, Joe Adkins from Oklahoma City will get a lot of playing time. He was a standout two guard in high school.

3. OKLAHOMA

The Sooners must replace their two best players of a year ago — Ryan Minor and Ernie Abercrombie. But Kelvin Sampson feels good about this team. He expects 6-5 senior Nate Erdmann to step up his game. Erdmann averaged 12.8 points a year ago. Good things are also expected from 6-7 Lou Moore. Two years ago, Moore was one of the top junior college players in the country. Freshman forward Eduardo Najera is what Sampson calls a "warrior" and will help with rebounding.

Oklahoma should also be better in the post. Last year, 6-11 Hootie Wiley and 6-9 Bobby Joe Evans got their first taste of college hoops and the results were mixed.

Sampson is extremely high on 6-2 junior college guard Corey Brewer. He likes Brewer's intensity and defensive prowess. The point guard slot is also a question. Brewer could play there, but true freshman Tim Heskett, the High School Player of the Year in South Carolina last season, will get a look.

4. TEXAS TECH

No Red Raider fan will ever forget last season when James Dickey's team crashed the national scene and

went 30-2. That's the good news. The bad news is that the best players are gone. There are questions at the point and forward positions.

The top player returning is 6-4 guard Cory Carr. Last year he averaged 16.1 points a game. Dickey is hoping for a big year from 6-11 center Tony Battie, who averaged 9.7 points and 8.9 boards. Carr and Battie may have to carry this team.

The best of the freshmen appear to be 6-3 Archie Myers and 5-11 Rayford Young. Young will get a chance to nab the starting point guard slot.

5. BAYLOR

The Bears are trying to rebound from a devastating NCAA probation. The Bears were 9-18 and 1-9 on the road last year. They have a good nucleus returning and could be the surprise team in the South. They return four players who averaged double digits in scoring with the prize being 6-10 Brian Skinner, who averaged 17.6 points and 9.3 rebounds.

The Bears didn't shoot well from the perimeter and they have their fingers crossed that 6-6 Leon Morris and 6-6 David Jones will help. Both

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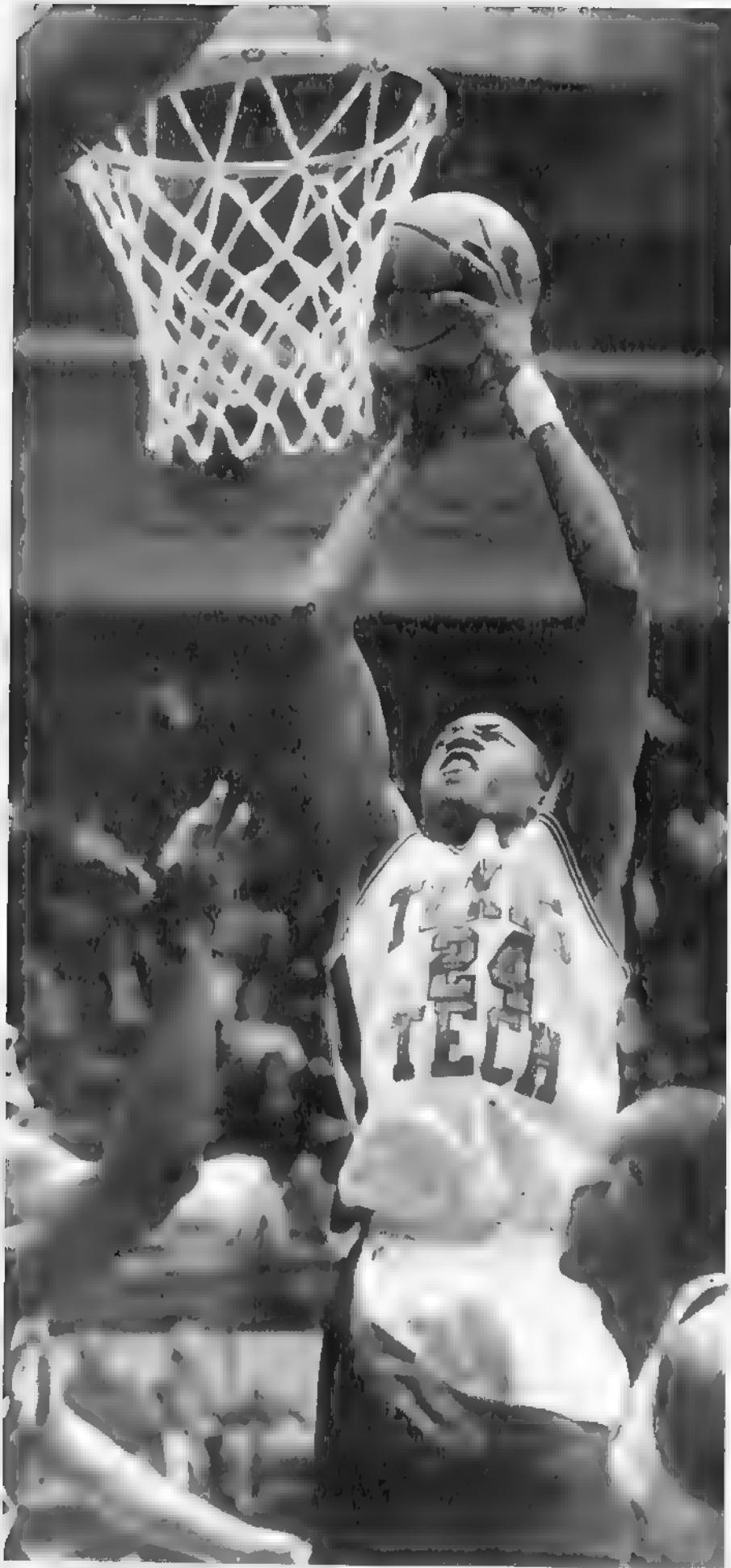
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are freshmen. Morris averaged 22 points a game as a high school senior and Jones averaged 23 points.

6. TEXAS A&M

The Aggies have big plans in hoops with a new arena on the way. But they have to turn things around on the court to get people to watch their games. Last year they were 11-16, losing their last seven games, five of them by five points or less. It will be newcomers who will get the Aggie faithful excited.

One of the most ballyhooed recruits to ever wear an Aggie uniform will be Jerald Brown. The 6-7 athletic forward was considered by many as the best prep player in Texas last year. Larry Thompson is a 6-9 forward, who averaged 15.5 points and 9 rebounds in junior college last year.

The best players returning are 6-2 Tracey Anderson, who averaged 13.3 points, and 5-8 point guard Derrick Hart, who averaged 13.1 points.

NORTH DIVISION

1. KANSAS

Not only are the Jayhawks being picked by everyone to win the first Big 12 title, but a lot of folks, including Dick Vitale, are selecting KU for their national championship pick. And why not? The Jayhawks are loaded.

Coach Roy Williams got a scare in the off-season when point guard Jacque Vaughn injured his wrist. But Vaughn should be back by January.

That's about the only thing Williams has to worry about. All five starters are back from last year's Big Eight title team. Is there a weakness on this team? If there is, you definitely will have a hard time finding it. Kansas is probably the most balanced team in the league.

Joining Vaughn at guard is Jerod Haase. He needs to come back from a poor shooting junior year when he hit only 35.6 percent of his shots from the field and 29.3 from three-point land.

Sophomore Paul Pierce could be an up-and-coming star at small forward. The Jayhawks have plenty of talent up front with 6-11 Raef LaFrentz and 6-10 Scot Pollard. Both figure to be first round NBA draft picks, who averaged 9.7 points and 8.9 boards last year, will be expected to carry the Tech team with Cory Carr.

picks. The bench is solid with the likes of 6-5 guard Ryan Robertson and 6-8 forward B.J. Williams providing depth.

2. IOWA STATE

The Cyclones were one of the surprise teams in the nation a year ago, winning a school-record 24 games. They won't catch anyone by surprise this year because they have all their key people back. Leading the way is 6-3 swingman Deric Willoughby. He averaged 20.5 points a game and can kill you on the free-throw line, where he hit 79 percent. The Cyclones have another star in 6-11 Kelvin Cato. He can block shots with the best of them.

There are other very good role players such as 6-6 Shawn Bankhead, 6-6 Klay Edwards and 6-foot point guard Jacy Holloway.

3. MISSOURI

The Tigers were a major disappointment a year ago when they collapsed late in the year and finished with an 18-15 record and no NCAA tournament bid. They'll be better this time around.

Kelly Thames, a 6-8 forward, should be a force. A year ago he **Kelly Thames hopes to have Missouri pointed in the right direction this season.**

wasn't as good as his freshman year because he was recovering from knee surgery.

Joining him up front will be sharp-shooting Derek Grimm. Others who will help are 6-9 L. Dee Murdock and 6-11 Monte Hardge.

One guy who is high on Norm Stewart's list is guard Jason Sutherland. This gutsy guard led the team in scoring with a 14.0 average. He's expected to be joined by JUCO transfer Dibi Ray.

4. NEBRASKA

Danny Nee was on the hot seat after a disappointing regular season. Then the Huskers went on a spectacular run to win the postseason NIT. The Cornhusker faithful rallied around their coach. There's something about winning that helps cover up problems.

This is a rebuilding year, but there's still plenty of talent to win games. The Huskers will be strong up front with 6-7 Bernard Garner (10.7 points, 6.3 rebounds) and 6-11 Mikki Moore (9.0, 5.9).

The problem could come at guard. The only experienced player back is sophomore Tyronn Lue who averaged 8.5 points and dished out a team-high 144 assists. He is expected to get help from his cousin, 6-3 freshman Cookie Belcher. Another guard

who is expected to help is 6-3 freshman Rodney Fields.

5. KANSAS STATE

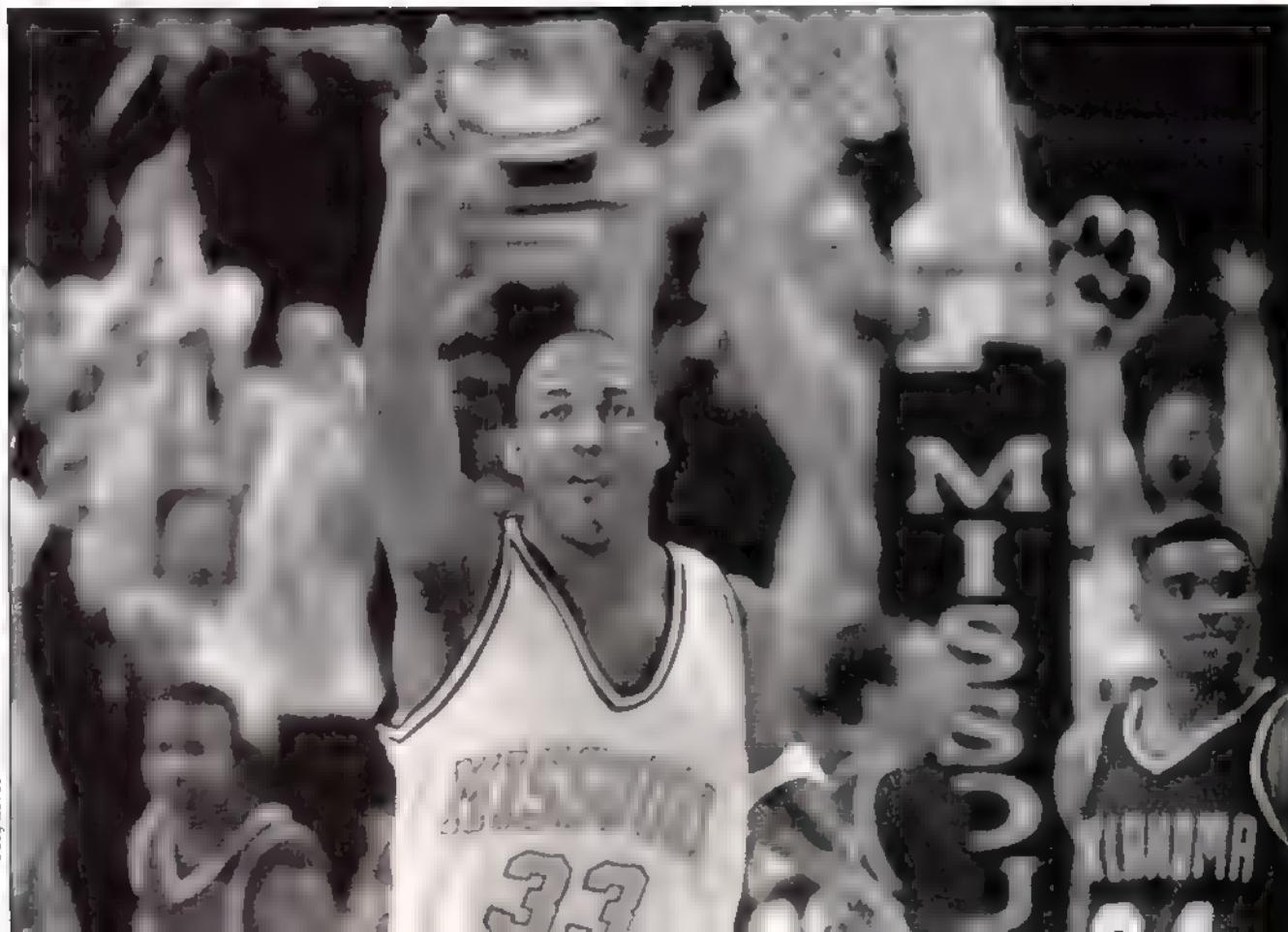
The Wildcats were a surprise last year when they won 17 games and got into the NCAA tournament. They need some outside scoring if they hope to go dancing again. The Wildcats are fair up front with 6-11 Gerald Eaker (7.0, 4.7) and 6-10 Shawn Rhodes (4.8, 3.7). Rhodes has a lot of potential.

The problem could be at guard where 6-4 Ayome May is the only experienced hand back. But big things are expected from 6-6 freshman Josh Reid, who was Mr. Basketball in Kansas last year.

6. COLORADO

It always seems easy to pick the Buffs last. However, this isn't a team devoid of talent. They have good players like Chauncey Billups, who averaged 17.9 points per game as a freshman. He could be an All-Big 12 pick. And everyone likes 6-6 Fred Edmonds (14.3 ppg last year).

The problem is there just aren't enough good players on this squad. But when you have the likes of Billups and Edmonds, second year coach Ricardo Patton could see his team finish as high as fourth in the North Division. ■



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Highly-touted Texas DB John Norman considering a collegiate career in Big Red secondary

Nbraska has become a great recruiting team of the 1990s because of its tradition, consistency in its coaching staff, work habits and domination on the playing field.

The Huskers currently are one program that many of the nation's top players automatically put down as one of their top choices, because those players hope they have a opportunity to sign with a top program like Nebraska.

A year ago in the secondary, the Huskers needed cornerbacks to replace graduated seniors, and this season safeties Mike Minter and Eric Stokes will finish their careers at Nebraska.

John Norman (6-foot-2, 180 pounds, 4.6 in the 40-yard dash) of Midland (Lee), Texas, is ranked as one of the top five defensive backs in the country, a huge compliment, considering Norman is a pure safety. Most of the defensive backs who garner such accolades are combination cornerback/safeties.

Norman is a pure safety and, after picking off 12 passes last year, was named Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press.

It was during Norman's sophomore year that he broke out with four interceptions, and then grabbed the attention of college recruiters because of the natural instincts he displayed. A very physical player with a 44-inch vertical jump, Norman had four interceptions through seven games this season, bringing his career total to 19. He also plays wide receiver, catching five passes for 189 yards and three touchdowns this season with his longest reception going for 50 yards.

Norman has never hidden the fact that he is leaning towards leaving the state. Michigan, Nebraska and Colorado reportedly have been at the top of his list since the summer, with USC now getting some attention, along with Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Oklahoma. Norman said he is looking for a

change of scenery, and looking for an opportunity to play early.

"I really like (Nebraska) Coach (Tom) Osborne and what he does on a consistent basis with the Nebraska program," Norman said. "Nebraska is a great school, where I can get a great education, and their football program is second to nobody in the country. I really don't know too much about them, except that they graduate both their safeties and they win, but that right there is enough to get me interested."

Texas is loaded with great safety prospects.

In addition to Norman, Jason Glenn (6-2, 202, 4.4) of Houston (Nimitz) is rated among the top 20 defensive backs in the country. Glenn is the younger brother of former Texas A&M All-America Aaron Glenn, now with the New York Jets. Some assume the Aggies have an edge, but that may not be the case, as Glenn said he has Texas as his early leader, with Nebraska also in the hunt.

"Texas graduates all four of their guys in the secondary, and I am looking for an opportunity to play early," Glenn said. "Nebraska also graduates both safeties, and hopefully I would get an opportunity to play there early, as well. I know they have a great team, and safety is a spot where maybe a player could play early."

Texas leads Texas A&M, Tennessee, Colorado and OU in the top five with USC, Baylor and Nebraska trying to close ground.

Montoya Gibson (6-3, 200, 4.5) of Irving, Texas, is rated among the top 50 in Texas, and has listed Texas A&M, along with Nebraska, Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma.

Marcus Riggs (6-0, 200, 4.5) of Houston (Yates) has emerged as a one of the top 50 players in Texas and reportedly has Florida State, Michigan, Nebraska, Texas and



By JAMES HALE



Texas A&M among his final five.

Kwame Cavil (6-3, 200, 4.6) of Waco, is rated among the top 50 in Texas, and could play either at safety or outside linebacker. Cavil has ties with OU, but said Texas, Miami, Oklahoma State and Nebraska also are under consideration.

Abdul Howard (6-1, 180, 4.4) of Quincy (Shanks), Fla., is one of the most versatile athletes in the country. The Shanks coaching staff moves Howard around offensively to keep teams from keying on him.

At quarterback, Howard has completed 15-of-30 passes for 303 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. As a wide receiver, Howard has 25 catches for 717 yards and eight touchdowns, and at running back, Howard has managed 25 carries for 432 yards and seven touchdowns. In addition, he has returned two kickoffs for touchdowns and one punt for a score of 67 yards.

On defense, Howard is just as busy with 67 tackles, six interceptions (two returned for touchdowns of 15 and 85 yards) and two fumble recoveries returned for touchdowns. That's 24 touchdowns from seven different spots through eight games.

"Nebraska has a great winning tradition, and I want to go to a program that already is in a position to win," Howard said. "I have been to Nebraska before, and I love the atmosphere that surrounds their football program. Fans in that state love their football team, and I am looking for that kind of environment."

Florida, Florida State, Ohio State, and Notre Dame also are among Howard's choices.

Larry Hollinquest (6-1, 175, 4.5) of Houston (South), Texas, is another great safety prospect with Nebraska, SMU, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Texas and Houston in contention for his services.

Robert Carswell (6-1, 208, 4.5) of Stone Mountain, Ga., already has set visits at Notre Dame (Dec. 6) and Nebraska (Dec. 14), and is working to get Florida State, Clemson and Virginia on his list.

In the West, **Jason Stephens** (6-2, 180, 4.5) of Redlands, Calif., is working from a list of UCLA, Colorado, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Oregon and Arizona. The Huskers reportedly lead on **Zimbalist Carter** (6-1, 170, 4.6) of Riverside (Poly), Calif., who is regarded as one of the top 50 players in California. Carter also is considering Colorado, Cal, UCLA and Washington State. ■

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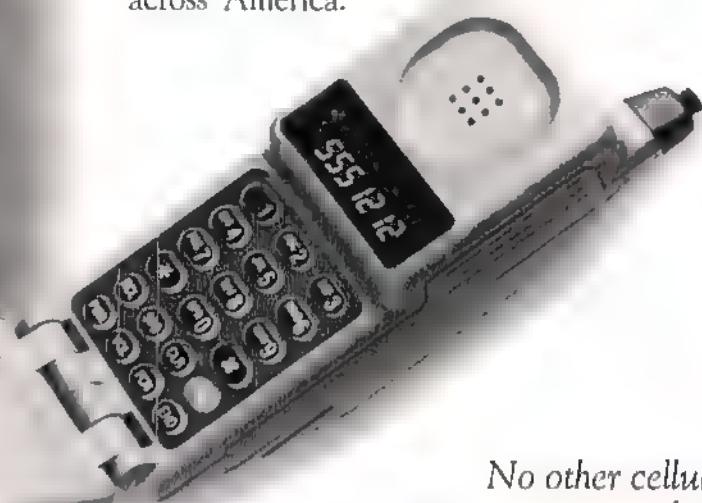
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BEST OF the numbers game THE BEST

JERSEYS 91-92

Editor's Note: This is the final installment of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era.

B

Rian Hiemer wore jersey No. 94. For those old enough to remember the quiet young man from Shelby, Neb., that number probably will always be

his. Like Brook Berringer, Hiemer died too young. And like Berringer, he represented "all the good things about college football." Those words are in quotes because Tom Osborne spoke them at Hiemer's funeral in mid-August of 1985. Hiemer died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, just before the start of preseason practice his senior year. Photo Day was canceled and was replaced by grieving.

Until its tragic end, Hiemer's story was one of remarkable triumph.

He walked on at Nebraska in 1981, from David City (Neb.) Aquinas High School, and played for the freshman-junior varsity his first season as a back-up kicker. He was 6-for-6 on



Brian Hiemer went from the 10th tight end on the Husker team to the best to wear No. 94.

extra points.

His play was so undistinguished that first fall, he wasn't invited to participate in spring practice. Undaunted, however, he persuaded Osborne to give him a second chance. He sat out his second season as a redshirt, then began chasing, in earnest, his dream of playing football at Nebraska.

Hiemer was the 10th tight end listed on the depth chart at the start of spring practice in 1983. By the end of spring, however, he had worked his way to second-team, behind senior Monte Engebritson.

He alternated with Engebritson and sophomore Todd Frain, behind whom he had played as a freshman, on the 1983 "Scoring Explosion" team, catching two passes for 32 yards.

Another solid spring boosted Hiemer to the top of the depth chart. He had earned a scholarship, and he alternated with Frain as the starter in 1984. At 6-foot-

3 and 220 pounds, he was a good blocker as well as a sure-handed receiver, catching 12 passes for 174 yards and a team-high four touchdowns.

Hiemer also distinguished himself in the classroom. His cumulative grade-point average was 3.3.

A bus carried players and coaches to Shelby for Hiemer's funeral at Sacred Heart Church, which was packed with 600 people. "Everyone admired him as a fine player, a fine person and a fine student," said Osborne, who had driven to Omaha to be with Hiemer at the hospital on the night he died.

Hiemer was a student-athlete in the truest sense. And as with all walk-ons, he had to believe in himself when few others did. He never earned all-conference recognition, and he played a position that carried a certain amount of offensive anonymity in the wake of the "Triplets" in 1983.

Hiemer deserves to be remembered here, in this final installment of "By the Numbers." To most football fans who watched him play, he was simply the Cornhusker in jersey No. 94.

But if you had known him, you would have liked him.

#91: Kent Wells
Also: Ron Pruitt

Kent Wells has had the distinction of playing professional football in various forms. He spent one season with the NFL's New York Giants (he has a Super Bowl ring as proof). He played in the World League of American Football. And last season, he played Arena football.

The former state shot put champion at Lincoln (East), Neb., earned first-team All-Big Eight recognition in 1989, after leading the Cornhusker defensive line in tackles with 36. He also had a team-high 12 tackles for losses, totaling 64 yards, and six quarterback sacks.

The 6-foot-5, 285-pound Wells was among the team's strongest players.

Ron Pruitt, a 6-foot-3, 247-pound defensive tackle (1974-76), is among others who have worn jersey No. 91. Pruitt ranks 19th in career tackles with 196. He holds the Cornhusker career record for fumble recoveries with nine and the career record for assisted tackles by a lineman (125).

1977-78
Ron Pruitt (1973-74, 76)

Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)

1981-82
John Parrella (1990-92)

1983-84
Brian Hiemer (1983-84)

1985-86
Denny Mannion (1985-86)

1987-88
Denny Mannion (1985-86)

#92: Derrie Nelson
Also: John Parrella

Derrie Nelson walked on from Fairmont, Neb., to become the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year and an All-American in 1980, after earning All-America honorable mention in 1979. He also was a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award in 1980.

The 6-foot-2, 220-pound Nelson ranks among the most intense and rugged players ever to represent Nebraska. He was as quick as he was tough, making a remarkable 21 tackles for losses totaling 153 yards in 1980. He was a part-time starter as a sophomore and a Cornhusker co-captain as a senior.

George Darlington, who formerly coached the defensive ends, once said that if the toughest, nastiest players were locked in a room and only one could come out, that one would be Nelson.

John Parrella (1990-92), a defensive tackle from Grand Island, is among others who have worn No. 92. Parrella was a two-time, first-team All-Big Eight pick and, like Nelson, a Cornhusker co-captain.

#93: Jared Tomich
(tie) Travis Hill

This is too close to call between Travis Hill and Jared Tomich, one of only two current Cornhuskers who have been included in "By the Numbers." (See No. 98)

Hill was first-team All-Big Eight in 1992, a season in which he had a team-high six sacks, for 46 yards in losses. He was an outstanding pass rusher and

Kent Wells has played in almost every form of professional football.

led the Cornhuskers in tackles for loss both as a junior (9.5) and a senior (12). The 6-foot-2, 240-pounder from Pearland, Texas, ranks 12th in career tackles, with 221, including 16.5 sacks for 123.5 yards in losses. He was a co-captain in 1992.

Tomich, a co-captain this season, earned All-America recognition from the Associated Press as a junior. He walked on from St. John, Ind., and has been a key to the defense the last two seasons.

#94: Brian Hiemer

As mentioned in the introduction, Hiemer's story had a tragic ending. But the circumstances of his death certainly don't negate what he accomplished as a person as well as player.

#95: Danny Noonan

Danny Noonan was a dominating presence in the middle of Nebraska's defense. He was a consensus All-American as a senior in 1986, but his unique ability was apparent before that.

The 6-foot-4, 280-pound Noonan was relegated to the all-conference second team as a junior only because he played in the shadows of teammate and defensive tackle Jim Skow and Oklahoma middle guard Tony Casillas, both of whom were All-Americans in 1985. "He [Noonan] has a chance to be an All-American,"

Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride predicted after that season.

Noonan tied a career record for sacks by a down lineman with 24, including 11 for 69 yards in losses as a junior. He led the Cornhuskers in tackles for loss in 1986 with 12, seven of them sacks.

He was a first-round draft pick and played seven NFL seasons.

#96: Jimmy Williams
(tie) George Andrews

Also: Jim Skow

This is another too-close-to-call situation, involving defensive ends Jimmy Williams and George Andrews. There could be a third, in fact. Skow (1983-85) is just as deserving.

This is among five jersey numbers that have been worn by three Cornhusker All-Americans.



A first-round NFL pick, Danny Noonan was a consensus All-American as a senior in 1986.

Williams earned All-America honors from both the Associated Press and the Walter Camp Foundation in 1981, when he also was the *United Press International* Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year.

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Williams arrived at Nebraska as a 185-pound walk-on from Washington, D.C., along with his brother Toby (1980-82), a defensive tackle. He was strong (300-pound bench press) and had extraordinary speed. He was timed at 4.34 (hand-held) in the 40-yard dash.

Not surprisingly, Williams was an outstanding pass rusher. He had 18 tackles for loss, including 10 quarterback sacks in 1981, when he was a team co-captain. He was a first-round draft pick and played 12 seasons in the NFL. Only 15 other Cornhuskers have played 10 or more years in the NFL.

Andrews, the "Smiling Assassin" from Burke High in Omaha, played seven seasons in the NFL (as a first-round pick) after a Cornhusker career during which he was a three-year starter. He was an All-American in 1978, as well as an Academic All-American and a member of the All-American Strength Team. He was credited with 84 tackles that season, including 10 for losses of 61 yards.

Andrews ranks 23rd on Nebraska's career tackles list with 184. He was a co-captain in 1978 and played as a graduate student, one of the first Cornhuskers ever to do so.

The 6-foot-3, 250-pound Skow was an undersized defensive tackle from Omaha Roncalli High School. He had exceptional speed (4.91 in the 40) and quickness, however. "He might be the most underrated defensive player in the league," McBride said before Skow's senior season.

Skow wasn't underrated after a senior season in which he had 15 sacks, for 139 yards in losses, and earned All-America recognition. He was a third-round draft pick and played six seasons in the NFL.

#97: Pat Engelbert

Pat Engelbert was a two-time academic all-conference honoree and an Academic All-American as a senior in 1991. He was a civil engineering major, who could be very uncivil on a football field. Osborne described him as the Cornhuskers' best middle guard since Noonan.

At 6-foot-2 and 250 pounds, Engelbert was small for a middle guard. But he was the team's quick-

est defensive lineman, with 4.98 speed in the 40-yard dash. The Columbus (Scouts), Neb., grad was a Cornhusker co-captain in 1991, and a first-team All-Big Eight selection.

He was one of the few defensive bright spots in Nebraska's disastrous 1991 Citrus Bowl loss against Georgia Tech, making seven tackles, including four for losses totaling 20 yards.

#98: Grant Wistrom Also: Tony Samuel

Grant Wistrom joins Tomich as the only current players in the "By the Numbers" series. There is little need to list Wistrom's considerable accomplishments here. Besides, the list increases with each game the 6-foot-5, 250-pound junior from Webb City, Mo., plays.

Wistrom was the Big Eight Defensive Newcomer of the Year on the 1994 national championship team. He was first-team All-Big Eight according to the conference coaches last season and a third-team All-American according to the Associated Press. He also was academic all-district.

Tony Samuel (1975-77), Wistrom's position coach, is among others who have worn No. 98.

#99: Neil Smith

Neil Smith, who else could it be at the final number on the list? The 6-foot-5 Smith came to Nebraska weighing 208 pounds. He ran the 40 in 5.09. He left as a 260-pound, first-round NFL draft choice, with 4.63 speed, and became the Kansas City Chiefs' designated "franchise player."

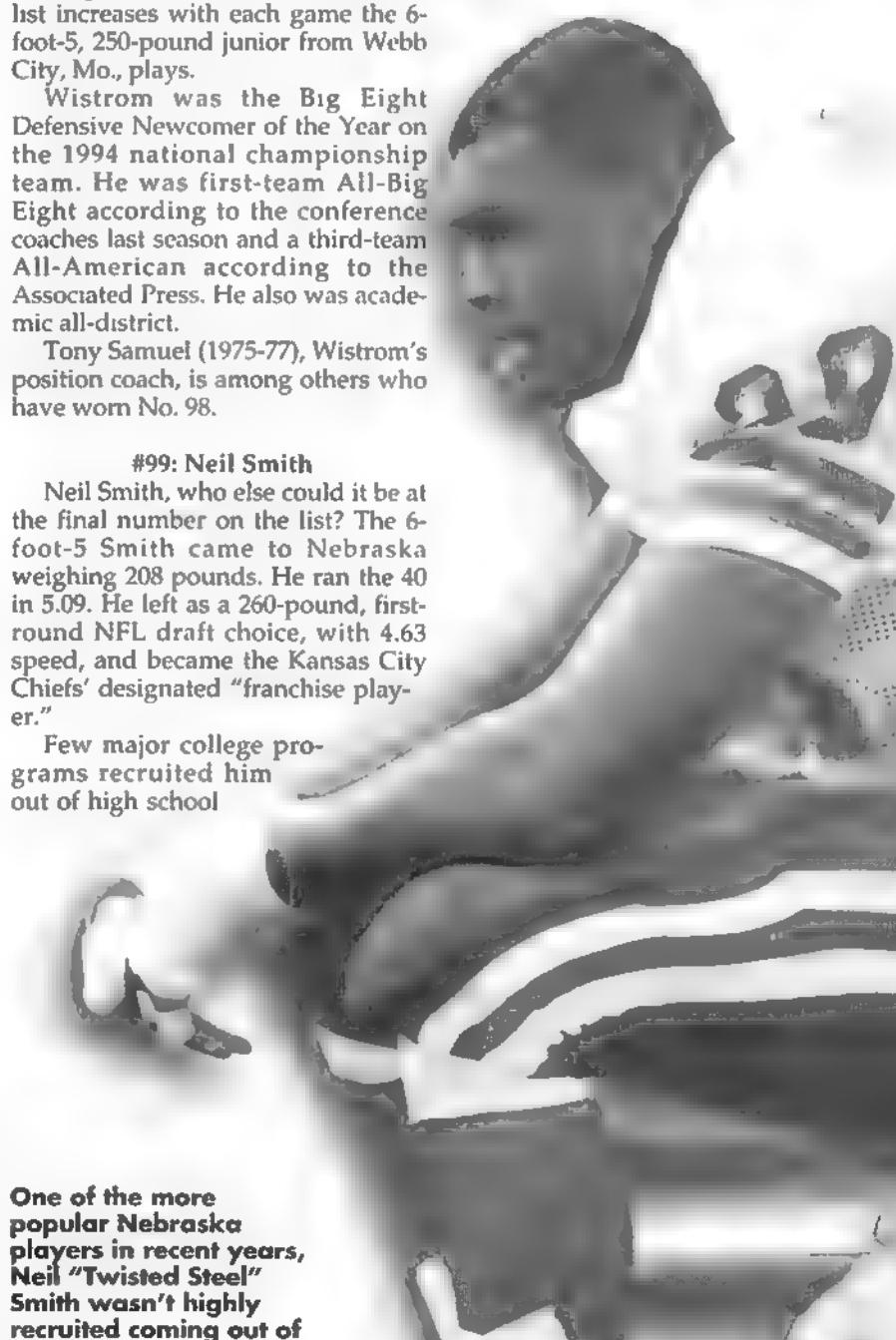
Few major college programs recruited him out of high school

in New Orleans.

Smith's nickname was "Twisted Steel." He combined size, strength and speed to earn All-America honors in 1987. He made 65 tackles, including 12 for losses of 63 yards and 7.5 sacks. He also had one fumble recovery, one pass interception, three pass breakups and one blocked kick.

He was popular among teammates as well as Cornhusker fans. He was a co-captain in 1987.

Smith didn't become a starter until his senior season. He was the third defensive tackle as a junior, behind Chris Spachman and Lee Jones. But he had more tackles (49) than either. ■



One of the more popular Nebraska players in recent years, Neil "Twisted Steel" Smith wasn't highly recruited coming out of high school.

**BEST
OF the numbers game
THE
BEST (IN REVIEW)**

1	Lawrence Phillips	(1983-95)
2	Jeff Krejci	(1979-81)
3	Tyrone Leggette	(1989-91)
4	Troy Dumas	(1991-94)
5	Brian Washington	(1984-87)
6	Keith Jones	(1984-87)
7	Reggie Baul	(1993-95)
8	Tyrone Williams	(1993-95)
9	Steve Taylor	(1985-88)
10	Bret Clark	(1982-84)
11	Neil Harris	(1982-84)
12	Bobby Reynolds	(1950-52)
13	Byron Bennett	(1999-93)
14	Dennis Claridge	(1961-63)
15	Tommie Frazier	(1992-95)
16	Jim Murphy	(1981-82)
17	Shane Swanson	(1982-84)
18	Brook Berringer	(1992-95)
19	Randy Borg	(1971-73)
20	Johnny Rodgers	(1970-72)
21	Roger Craig	(1980-82)
22	Warren Alfson	(1958-60)
23	Mark Blazek	(1986-88)
24	Bill Kosch	(1969-71)
25	George Sauer	(1951-53)
26	Tom Rathman	(1983-85)
27	Irving Fryar	(1981-83)
28	Jeff Smith	(1982-84)
29	Jim Pillen	(1976-78)
30	Mike Rozier	(1981-83)
31	Harry Wilson	(1964-66)
32	Ed Stewart	(1991-94)
33	Forrest Behm	(1958-40)
34	Trev Alberts	(1990-93)
35	Ed Weir	(1923-25)
36	Larry Wacholtz	(1964-66)
37	Lawrence Ely	(1950-52)
38	Sam Francis	(1954-56)
39	Andra Franklin	(1977-80)
40	Pat Fischer	(1958-60)
41	Marc Munford	(1984-86)
42	Jerry Murtough	(1968-70)
43	Todd Millikan	(1985-88)
44	Calvin Jones	(1991-93)
45	Fred Shirey	(1935-37)
46	Tony Felici	(1980-82)
47	Charles Brock	(1936-38)
48	Mike Anderson	(1990-95)
49	Monte Anthony	(1974-77)
50	Dave Rimington	(1979-82)
51	Mick Tingelhoff	(1959-61)
52	Tom Davis	(1975-77)
53	Hugh Rhea	(1929-31)
54	Rik Bonness	(1973-75)
tie	Aaron Graham	(1992-95)
55	Rod Horn	(1977-79)
56	Rob Zateckha	(1991-94)
57	Mark Traynowicz	(1982-84)
58	Harry Crimmlinger	(1982-84)
59	Jim Osberg	(1965-66)
60	Tom Novak	(1946-49)
61	John McCormick	(1985-87)
62	Bob Sledge	(1986-88)
63	Lynn Senkbeil	(1984-66)
64	Bob Brown	(1961-63)
65	Joe Armstrong	(1966-68)
66	Wayne Meylan	(1965-67)
67	LaVerne Allers	(1964-66)
68	Jake Young	(1986-89)
69	LaVerne Torczon	(1954-56)
70	Charles Toogood	(1947-50)
71	Dean Steinkuhler	(1981-83)
72	Zach Wiegert	(1991-94)
73	Kelvin Clark	(1976-78)
74	Bob Newton	(1969-70)
75	Will Shields	(1989-91)
76	Jerry Minnick	(1951-53)
77	Walt Barnes	(1963-65)
78	Roland McDole	(1958-60)
79	Rich Glover	(1970-72)
80	Jamie Williams	(1964-66)
81	Willie Harper	(1970-72)
82	Don Purcell	(1959-61)
83	Larry Tomlinson	(1961-63)
84	Tony Jeter	(1963-65)
85	Freeman White	(1965-65)
86	Johnny Mitchell	(1990-91)
87	Bob Martin	(1973-75)
88	Guy Ingles	(1968-70)
89	Broderick Thomas	(1985-88)
90	John Dutton	(1971-73)
91	Kent Wells	(1987-89)
92	Derrick Nelson	(1978-80)
93	Jared Tomich	(1994-present)
tie	Travis Hill	(1989-92)
94	Brian Hiemer	(1983-84)
95	Danny Noonan	(1984-86)
96	Jimmy Williams	(1979-81)
tie	George Andrews	(1976-78)
97	Pat Engelbert	(1989-91)
98	Grant Wistrom	(1994-present)
99	Nell Smith	(1985-87)

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